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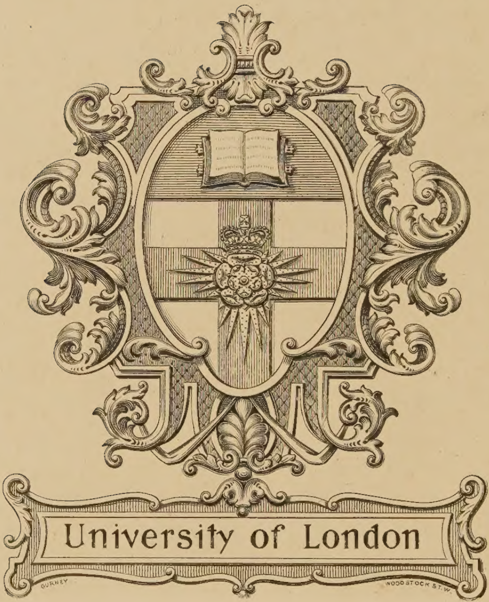
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THE

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(AUTHORISED EDITION),

FOURTH SERIES.

SECOND SESSION OF THE TWENTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE
UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

1 EDWARD VII.

VOLUME XC.

COMPRISING THE PERIOD FROM THE TWENTY-EIGHTH DAY OF
FEBRUARY TO THE FOURTEENTH DAY OF MARCH,

1901.

SECOND VOLUME OF SESSION.

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THE PARLIAMENTARY HISTORY contains all that can be collected of the Legislative History of this country from the Conquest to the close of the XVIIIth Century (1803), 36 vols. The chief sources whence these Debates are derived are the Constitutional History, 24 vols.; Sir Simonds D'Ewes' Journal; Debates of the Commons in 1620 and 1621; Chandler and Timberland's Debates, 22 vols.; Grey's Debates of the Commons, from 1667 to 1694, 10 vols.; Almon's Debates, 24 vols.; Debrett's Debates, 63 vols.; The Hardwicke Papers; Debates in Parliament by Dr. Johnson, &c., &c.

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Elementary Education (Higher Grade and Evening Continuation Schools).—Petitions for alteration of Law, from Cardiff; Colne; Queensbury; Birmingham; Widnes; Gateshead; and Drighlington; to lie upon the Table 20

Franchise and Removal of Women's Disabilities Bill.—Petitions from London, in favour; to lie upon the Table 20

Poor Law Officers' Superannuation Act, 1896.—Petitions for alteration of Law, from Barnet; Wimborne and Cranborne; Aberavon; and Martley; to lie upon the Table 20

Sale of Intoxicating Liquors to Children Bill.—Petitions in favour, from Partick; and Colchester; to lie upon the Table 20

Sunday Closing (Monmouthshire).—Petition from Colchester, for alteration of law; to lie upon the Table 20

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

County Courts, England (Fees).—Copy presented, of Treasury Order, dated 22nd February, 1901, regulating Court Fees in County Courts [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 21

Military Works Acts, 1897 and 1899.—Account presented, for the period ended 31st March, 1900, together with the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 66.] 21

Board of Trade (Labour Department).—Copy presented, of Seventh Annual Abstract of Labour Statistics of the United Kingdom, 1899–1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 21

Piers and Harbours (Provisional Orders).—Copy presented, of Report by the Board of Trade of their Proceedings under the General Pier and Harbour Act, 1861, and the General Pier and Harbour Act (1861) Amendment Act [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 67] 21

Foreign Jurisdiction Act, 1890.—Copy presented, of Order in Council, dated 9th February, 1901, entitled the Persia (Regulations) Order in Council, 1901 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 21

Technical Instruction Act, 1889.—Copies presented, of Minutes sanctioning the subjects to be taught under Clause 8 of the Technical Instruction Act, 1889, for the following counties and borough:—County of the Isle of Wight (Fourth Minute), dated 7th December, 1900; County of the Soke of Peterborough (Eighth Minute), dated 18th January, 1901; County Borough of Oldham (Eighth Minute), dated 25th January, 1901 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 21

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ARMY (ORDNANCE FACTORIES) SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE, 1900–1901).—Copy presented, of Estimate of the Further Amount required during the year ending 31st March, 1901, to defray the expense of the Ordnance Factories [by Command]; referred to the Committee of Supply, and to be printed. [No. 65.] 21

ARMY (MEMORANDUM ON ESTIMATES).—Copy presented, of Memorandum of the Secretary of State relating to the Army Estimates of 1901–2 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 22

EAST INDIA (NORTH-WEST FRONTIER).—Copy presented, of Papers regarding British relations with the neighbouring Tribes on the North-West Frontier of India and Punjab Frontier Administration [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 22

PRISONS (SCOTLAND).—Copy presented, of Rule made by the Secretary for Scotland appointing the Police Cells at Haddington to be a legal Prison for the detention of untried prisoners for a period not exceeding fourteen days before or during trial, and of convicted prisoners for a period not exceeding seven days from the date of conviction [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 22

PRISONS (SCOTLAND) DIETARIES.—Copy presented, of Rules made by the Secretary for Scotland under the Prisons (Scotland) Act, 1877, establishing new rates of Dietaries for the several classes of prisoners [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 22

LOCAL REGISTRATION OF TITLE (IRELAND) ACT, 1891, AND SMALL DWELLINGS ACQUISITION ACT, 1899 (RULES).—Copy presented, of Rules made by the Judge nominated as an additional Land Judge for the purposes of the Local Registration of Title (Ireland) Act, 1891, with the approval of the Lord Chancellor [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 22

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS, 1901–1902 (VOTE ON ACCOUNT).—Estimate presented, showing the several Services for which a Vote on Account is required for the year ending 31st March, 1902 [by Command]; referred to the Committee of Supply, and to be printed. [No. 68.] 22

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Parish and County.	Number of Allotments granted, giving particulars of acreage and rental.	Number of cases where Allotments refused.

—(*Mr. Eugene Wason.*) 23

PAUPERISM (ENGLAND AND WALES) (MONTHLY STATEMENTS).—Return ordered, "of Statements for each month of the year 1901 of the number of paupers (except lunatics in county and borough asylums, registered hospitals and licensed houses, and vagrants) in receipt of relief in England and Wales (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 135, of Session 1900)."—(*Mr. Grant Lawson.*) 24

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SUB-LETTING OF GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS.—Question, Mr. Keir Hardie (Merthyr Tydvil); Answer, Lord Stanley 31

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SUPPLY.—Considered in Committee.

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

CIVIL SERVICE (SUPPLEMENTARY) ESTIMATES, 1900–1901.

CLASS I.

1. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £5,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Houses of Parliament Buildings."

Discussion :—

Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.) .. 91
The First Commissioner of Works (Mr. Akers Douglas, Kent, St. Augustine's) .. 94
Mr. Lough (Islington, W.) .. 95
Sir Brampton Gurdon (Norfolk, N.) .. 96

Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That a sum, not exceeding £3,700, be granted for the said Service."—(*Sir Brampton Gurdon.*)

Discussion :—

Colonel Nolan (Galway, N.) .. 97
Mr. Labouchere (Northampton) .. 98
Mr. John Ellis (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe) .. 99
Major Jameson (Clare, W.) .. 100
Mr. Stevenson (Suffolk, Eye) .. 100
Sir Thomas Esmonde (Wexford, N.) .. 101
Mr. Akers Douglas .. 101
Mr. Dalziel (Kirkcaldy Burghs) .. 103
Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett (Sheffield, Ecclesall) .. 105
Mr Daly (Monaghan, S.) .. 105
Mr. Heywood Johnstone (Sussex, Horsham) .. 105
Mr. Bayley (Derbyshire, Chesterfield) .. 106
Mr. Dillon .. 106
Mr. Patrick O'Brien (Kilkenny) .. 107
Mr. Jordan (Fermanagh, S.) .. 107
Mr. O'Doherty (Donegal, N.) .. 108
Sir Brampton Gurdon .. 108
Mr. Field (Dublin, St. Patrick's) .. 108
Mr. Tully (Leitrim, S.) .. 109
Mr. Akers Douglas .. 109

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 167 ; Noes, 219. (Division List No. 20.)

Original Question again proposed.

Mr. Patrick O'Brien .. 113
Mr. Akers Douglas .. 113

Question put, and agreed to.

2. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £2,500, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st

day of March, 1901, for Expenditure in respect of Art and Science Buildings, Great Britain."

Sir Thomas Esmonde 115
Mr. Dillon 115
Mr. Akers Douglas 115

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 271 ; Noes, 74. (Division List, No. 21.)

3. Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £2,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for Expenditure in respect of Diplomatic and Consular Buildings."

Mr. Dillon 119
Mr. Akers Douglas 120
Mr. J. P. Farrell (Longford, N.) 121

Motion made, and Question put,

"That a sum, not exceeding £1,800, be granted for the said service." —(*Mr. J. P. Farrell.*)

Mr. Dillon 122
Sir Walter Foster (Derbyshire, Ilkeston) 123
Mr. Labouchere 123
Mr. Power (Waterford, E.) 123
Mr. Tully 123
Major Jameson 124
Mr. Field 124
Mr. Daly 124
Colonel Nolan 125
Mr. Flynn (Cork, N.) 125
Mr. Flavin (Kerry, N.) 126
Mr. Dalziel 126
Mr. Akers Douglas 126
Mr. Jordan 126
Mr. Caldwell (Lanarkshire, Mid.) 126

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 101 ; Noes, 175. (Division List No. 22.)

Original Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 176 ; Noes, 91. (Division List No. 23.)

4. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £7,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1901, for the expenses of the Post Office and Post Office Telegraph buildings in Great Britain, including furniture, fuel, and sundry miscellaneous services."

Mr. J. P. Farrell 133
Mr. Tully 134
Mr. Daly 134
Mr. Caldwell 135
Mr. Akers Douglas 135
Mr. Sydney Buxton (Tower Hamlets, Poplar) 136

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Motion made, and Question proposed,

"That a sum, not exceeding £6,000, be granted for the said Service."—(*Mr. Daly.*)

Mr. Nannetti (Dublin, College Green) 138
Mr. O'Mara (Kilkenny, S.) 138
Mr. Flavin 138
Mr. Crean (Cork, S.E.) 139
Mr. Mansfield (Lincolnshire, Spalding) 140
Sir Thomas Esmonde 141
Mr. Caldwell 141
Mr. Jordan 142
Mr. O'Mara 143
Mr. William Redmond (Clare, E.) 143

Mr. Akers Douglas rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 222 ; Noes, 135. (Division List No. 24.)

Question put accordingly, "That a sum, not exceeding £6,000, be granted for the said Service."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 132 ; Noes, 222. (Division List No. 25.)

Mr. Akers Douglas claimed, "That the Original Question be now put."

Original Question put accordingly.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 229 ; Noes, 126. (Division List No. 26.)

Resolutions to be reported.

Motion made, and Question proposed,

"That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £35,200, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, in respect of sundry Public Buildings in Great Britain, not provided for on other Votes."

Mr. Sydney Buxton 157
Mr. Broadhurst (Leicester) 159
Mr. Flynn 160
Mr. Lough 161
Mr. Dillon 162
Mr. Keir Hardie (Merthyr Tydvil) 163
Mr. Goddard (Ipswich) 165
Mr. Akers Douglas 165

It being midnight, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Resolutions to be reported to-morrow ; Committee also report Progress ; to sit again to-morrow.

Mines (Eight Hours) Bill.—Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

Clause 1.

Committee report Progress ; to sit again upon Wednesday, 12th June.

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PRESENCE OF THE SOVEREIGN IN PARLIAMENT.—

Motion made, and Question proposed,

"That it is expedient that a Select Committee be appointed to join with a Committee of the Lords to consider the accommodation available in the House of Lords when the Sovereign is personally present in Parliament, and the advisability of substituting Westminster Hall on such an occasion for the House of Lords :

That a Message be sent to the Lords to acquaint them therewith." —(*Sir William Walrond.*)

Mr. Flavin objected.

Motion deferred 168

Adjourned at five minutes after Twelve of the clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS: FRIDAY, 1ST MARCH, 1901.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The Lord Chancellor acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with :—Aire and Calder Navigation [H.L.]; Bath Gas Light and Coke [H.L.]; Birmingham (City) Tramways [H.L.]; Bristol, Clifton, and West of England Zoological Society [H.L.]; Central London Railway [H.L.]; Chester Gas [H.L.]; City and Brixton Railway [H.L.]; City and South London Railway [H.L.]; Llanelly and Mynydd Mawr Railway [H.L.]; London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway [H.L.]; Newcastle-upon-Tyne and Gateshead Gas [H.L.]; Newport (Isle of Wight) Gas [H.L.]; New Swindon Gas [H.L.]; Shrewsbury Gas [H.L.]; South Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railways [H.L.]; South Essex Water [H.L.]; Weston-super-Mare Gas [H.L.]; Wisbech Water [H.L.].

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Chester Corporation Tramways Bill [H.L.].—Presented, and read 1ª .. 169

Islington and Euston Railway Bill.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read a second time."—(*The Earl of Morley.*)

The Duke of Northumberland 169
The Chairman of Committees (*The Earl of Morley*) 170

On Question agreed to. Bill read 2ª accordingly.

Arlesey Gas Bill [H.L.]; Aspatria, Silloth, and District Water Bill [H.L.]; Barrow-in-Furness Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Belfast Harbour Bill [H.L.]; Bolton Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Bournemouth Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Bristol Corporation Cemetery Bill [H.L.]; Bristol Corporation (Docks and Railways, Etc.) Bill [H.L.]; Broadstairs and St. Peter's Water and Improvement Bill [H.L.]; Chesterfield Improvement Bill [H.L.]; Dover Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Dover Harbour Bill [H.L.]; Folkestone Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Handsworth Urban District Council Bill [H.L.]; Harrogate Water Bill [H.L.]; Henry Diaper and Company (Delivery Warrants) Bill [H.L.]; Heywood and Middleton Water Board Bill [H.L.]; King's Norton and Northfield Urban District Tramways Bill [H.L.]; Read 2ª .. 170

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Leeds Corporation (General Powers) Bill [H.L.]; Leeds Corporation Water Bill [H.L.]; Llanelly Harbour Bill [H.L.]; Manchester and Liverpool Electric Express Railway Bill [H.L.]; Manchester Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Mersey Docks and Harbour Board Bill [H.L.]; North-East London Railway Bill [H.L.]; Oakham Water Bill [H.L.]; Piccadilly and City Railway Bill [H.L.]; Poulton-le-Fylde Gas Bill [H.L.]; Prestatyn Water Bill [H.L.]; Ripon Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Rugby Water and Improvement Bill [H.L.]; Salford Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Sheffield Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Shields Bridge Bill [H.L.]; Smethwick Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Southport Water (Transfer) Bill [H.L.]; Stockport Corporation Water Bill [H.L.]; Stratton and Bude Improvement Bill [H.L.]; Warkworth Harbour Bill [H.L.]. Read 2ª 171

West and South London Junction Railway Bill [H.L.].—Standing Order No. 86A considered (according to Order), and dispensed with. Leave given to present the said Bill. Bill presented, and read 1ª 171

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

INDIA (NORTH-WEST FRONTIER).—Papers regarding British relations with the neighbouring tribes on the North-west Frontier of India, and Punjab Frontier Administration; presented [by Command], and ordered to lie on the Table 171

PRISONS (SCOTLAND):—

I. Rule made by the Secretary for Scotland appointing the police cells at Haddington to be a legal prison for the detention of untried prisoners for a period not exceeding fourteen days before or during trial, and of convicted prisoners for a period not exceeding seven days from the date of conviction.

II. Rules made by the Secretary for Scotland under the Prisons (Scotland) Act, 1877, establishing new rates of dietaries for the several classes of prisoners 172

LOCAL REGISTRATION OF TITLE (IRELAND) ACT, 1891, AND THE SMALL DWELLINGS ACQUISITION ACT, 1899.—Rules dated 5th December, 1900.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table 172

CHARITABLE AGENCIES FOR THE RELIEF OF WIDOWS AND ORPHANS OF SOLDIERS AND SAILORS.—Commons Message considered (according to Order).

Moved—

"That this House do concur in the following Resolution communicated by the Commons—namely, 'That it is expedient that a Joint Committee of Lords and Commons be appointed to consider the various charitable agencies now in operation, and the funds available for relieving widows and orphans of soldiers and sailors, with a view to ensuring that the funds subscribed by local and private benevolence are applied to the best advantage in supplementing a scheme of Government Pensions for widows and orphans of soldiers and sailors who have lost their lives in war.'"—(*Lord Raglan.*)

Discussion :—

Earl Spencer 172
The Under Secretary of State for War (Lord Raglan) 174
The Earl of Northbrook 174
Lord Welby 175

On Question, agreed to ; and Message ordered to be sent to the Commons to acquaint them therewith.

House adjourned at a quarter before Five of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS : FRIDAY, 1st MARCH, 1901.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS (STANDING ORDER 62 COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills That, in the case of the following Bills, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order No. 62 has been complied with, viz. :—Aldershot Gas and Water Bill ; Caledonian Railway Bill ; Gas Light and Coke Company Bill ; Gravesend Gas Bill ; Great Eastern Railway Bill ; Great Northern Railway Bill ; London, Tilbury, and Southend Railway Bill ; South Metropolitan Gas Bill ; Taff Vale Railway Bill ; and Tendring Hundred Water Bill.

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time 175

PRIVATE BILLS (STANDING ORDER 63 COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order No. 63 has been complied with, viz. :—British Gas Light Company Bill ; Crawley Gas Bill ; District Messenger and Theatre Ticket Company Bill ; Dublin St. James' Gate Brewery Tramways Bill ; Gateshead and District Tramways Bill ; Horley District Gas Bill ; Leatherhead Gas Bill ; Wells Water Bill.

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time 176

BEXLEY TRAMWAYS.—Petition, and Bill ordered to be brought in by Sir William Hart Dyke and Mr. Forster 176

Thames and Severn Provisional Order Bill.—Read a second time, and committed 176

STANDING ORDERS.—Resolutions reported from the Committee :—

1. "That, in the case of the Cambrian Railways Petition, the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with :—That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill."
2. "That, in the case of the South Yorkshire Electric Power Petition, the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with :—That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill, provided that the powers to exempt the Company proposed to be incorporated by the Bill, and their undertaking from the provisions of Section 81 of the Schedule to the Electric Lighting (Clauses) Act, 1899, be struck out of the Bill :—That the Committee on the Bill do report how far such Order has been complied with."

Resolutions agreed to 176

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CAMBRIAN RAILWAYS.—Report [this day] from the Select Committee on Standing Orders read. Bill ordered to be brought in by Mr. Humphreys-Owen and Mr. Bryn Roberts 177

SOUTH YORKSHIRE ELECTRIC POWER.—Report [this day] from the Select Committee on Standing Orders read. Bill ordered to be brought in by Sir William Hornby, Mr. Helder and Mr. Platt-Higgins 177

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BEER BILL.—Petition from Hollinwood, in favour ; to lie upon the Table .. 177

CHURCH DISCIPLINE.—Petition from Wickham Market, for alteration of Law ; to lie upon the Table.. 177

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (HIGHER GRADE AND EVENING CONTINUATION SCHOOLS). —Petitions for alteration of Law, from Keighley ; Middlesbrough ; Sedgley ; and Southowram ; to lie upon the Table 177

POOR LAW OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1896.—Petitions for alteration of Law, from West Ham ; Guildford ; South Shields ; and Bedwellty ; to lie upon the Table 177

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN BILL.—Petitions in favour, from United Free Church of Scotland Temperance Union ; and Southampton ; to lie upon the Table 177

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

PAUPERISM (ENGLAND AND WALES) (MONTHLY STATEMENTS).—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 28th February ; *Mr. Grant Lawson*] ; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 69.] 178

PAUPERISM (ENGLAND AND WALES) (HALF-YEARLY STATEMENTS). —Copy ordered, "of statement of the number of Paupers relieved on the 1st day of January, 1901, and similar Statement for the 1st day of July, 1901 (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 136, of Session 1900)."—(*Mr. Grant Lawson.*) 178

QUESTIONS.

SOUTH AFRICA—JAMESON RAID INDEMNITY—CHARTERED COMPANY'S COUNTERCLAIM.—Questions, Mr. Afred Davies (Carmarthen Boroughs) and Mr. Channing (Northamptonshire, E.) ; Answers, The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Sir M. Hicks Beach, Bristol, W.) 178

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MILITARY FUNERALS—ARTHUR DODD, SHROPSHIRE YEOMANRY.—Question, Mr. John Campbell (Armagh, S.); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 181

YEOMANRY TRAINING.—Question, Mr. Hermon-Hodge (Oxfordshire, Henley); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 182

HAMPSHIRE YEOMANRY.—Question, Sir Barrington Simeon (Southampton); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 183

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SAMOA DISTURBANCES—BRITISH CLAIMS FOR COMPENSATION.—Question, Mr. Maxwell (Dumfriesshire); Answer, Viscount Cranborne 187

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ENNISCORTHY POST OFFICE.—Question, Sir Thomas Esmonde (Wexford, N.); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 207

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE—DURATION OF DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS.—Questions, Mr. Stuart-Wortley (Sheffield, Hallam), Mr. Caldwell (Lanarkshire, Mid), and Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; Answers, Mr. Speaker 207

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS—CHARITABLE AGENCIES FOR THE RELIEF OF WIDOWS AND ORPHANS OF SOLDIERS AND SAILORS.—That they concur with the Commons in their Resolution:—"That it is expedient that a Joint Committee of Lords and Commons be appointed to consider the various Charitable Agencies now in operation, and the funds available for relieving Widows and Orphans of Soldiers and Sailors, with a view to ensuring that the funds subscribed by local and private benevolence are applied to the best advantage in supplementing a scheme of Government Pensions for Widows and Orphans of Soldiers and Sailors who have lost their lives in war;" as desired by this House 208

NEW BILLS.

BOROUGH FUNDS ACT (1872) AMENDMENT (LONDON).—Bill to amend the Borough Funds Act, 1872, ordered to be brought in by Captain Jessel, Sir Charles Dilke, Sir George Fardell, Mr. Sydney Buxton, Mr. Boulnois, Mr. Richards, and Mr. Whitmore.

Borough Funds Act (1872) Amendment (London) Bill.—"To amend the Borough Funds Act, 1872," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Wednesday, 24th April, and to be printed. [Bill 74.] 209

LIQUOR TRAFFIC LOCAL VETO (SCOTLAND).—Bill to give the ratepayers a direct veto on the Liquor Traffic in their respective areas in Scotland, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Hunter Craig, Mr. Colville, Mr. Cameron Corbett, Mr. Black, Sir William Dunn, Mr. Eugene Wason, Mr. Wallace, Mr. John D. Hope, and Dr. Farquharson.

Liquor Traffic Local Veto (Scotland) Bill. — "To give the ratepayers a direct veto on the Liquor Traffic in their respective areas in Scotland," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Wednesday, 19th June, and to be printed. [Bill 75.] 209

CHEAP TRAINS.—Bill to amend the Law relating to Cheap Trains for the working classes, ordered to be brought in by Captain Norton, Mr. Buxton, Sir Albert Rollit, Sir Frederick Dixon-Hartland, Mr. John Burns, Mr. Scott, Mr. John Wilson (Durham), and Mr. Macnamara.

Cheap Trains Bill.—"To amend the Law relating to Cheap Trains for the working classes," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 76.] 209

LIQUOR TRAFFIC LOCAL VETO.—Bill to enable localities by a direct veto to prevent the issue of licences for the sale of intoxicating liquors, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Caine, Mr. Henry Joseph Wilson, Mr. Burt, Mr. Whittaker, and Mr. Channing.

Liquor Traffic Local Veto Bill. — "To enable localities by a direct veto to prevent the issue of licences for the sale of intoxicating liquors," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Wednesday, 19th June, and to be printed. [Bill 77.] 209

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LICENSING ACTS AMENDMENT (SCOTLAND). — Bill to amend the Law with respect to the Licensing Authorities in Police Burghs in Scotland, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Colville, Sir John Leng, Mr. Hunter Craig, Mr. Black, Mr. Caldwell, Mr. Parker Smith, and Mr. John D. Hope.

Licensing Acts Amendment (Scotland) Bill. — "To amend the Law with respect to the Licensing Authorities in Police Burghs in Scotland," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Wednesday next, and to be printed. [Bill 78.] 210

TRADE MARKS.—Bill to consolidate and amend the Law relating to Trade Marks, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Fletcher, Mr. Alban Gibbs, Mr. Butcher, Mr. Kimber, Mr. Kearley, Mr. M'Kenna, and Lord Henry Bentinck.

Trade Marks Bill.—"To consolidate and amend the Law relating to Trade Marks," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Thursday, 14th March, and to be printed. [Bill 79.] 210

HOSPITALS (EXEMPTION FROM RATES).—Bill providing for the exemption of Hospitals from local rates, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Lawson Walton, Dr. Farquharson, Mr. Warr, and Mr. T. P. O'Connor.

Hospitals (Exemption from Rates) Bill.—"Providing for the exemption of Hospitals from Local Rates," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Wednesday next, and to be printed. [Bill 80.] 210

SUPPLY.—Considered in Committee.

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

CIVIL SERVICE (SUPPLEMENTARY) ESTIMATES, 1900–1901.

CLASS I.

1. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £35,200, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, in respect of sundry public buildings in Great Britain, not provided for on other Votes."

Discussion :—

Sir Walter Foster (Derbyshire, Ilkeston) 211
Sir Albert Rollit (Islington, S.) 213
Sir Thomas Esmonde (Wexford, N.) 214
Mr. Sydney Buxton (Tower Hamlets, Poplar) 215
The First Commissioner of Works (Mr. Akers Douglas, Kent, St. Augustine's) 217
Mr. Tennant (Berwickshire) 220
Mr. J. P. Farrell (Longford, N.) 221

Motion made, and Question proposed,

"That a sum, not exceeding £33,200, be granted for the said Service."—(*Mr. Farrell.*)

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Discussion :—

Sir Brampton Gurdon (*Norfolk, N.*) 223
Mr. Boland (*Kerry, S.*) 224
Mr. O'Doherty (*Donegal, N.*) 224

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 144 ; Noes, 207. (Division List No. 27.)

Original Question again proposed.

Mr. Goddard (*Ipswich*) 227

Motion made, and Question proposed,

"That a sum, not exceeding £35,100, be granted for the said Service."—(*Mr. Goddard.*)

Discussion :—

Mr. Field (*Dublin, St. Patrick*) 230
Mr. Gibson Bowles (*Lynn Regis*) 230
Mr. Power (*Waterford*) 231
Sir Edgar Vincent (*Exeter*) 231
The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (*Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Worcestershire, E.*) 232
Mr. Labouchere (*Northampton*) 233
Mr. Dillon (*Mayo, E.*) 233
Mr. Martin (*Worcestershire, Droitwich*) 234
Mr. George Whiteley (*Yorkshire, W.R., Pudsey*) 234
Mr. Heywood Johnstone (*Sussex, Horsham*) 235
Mr. John Ellis (*Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe*) 236

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 149 ; Noes, 211. (Division List No. 28.)

Original Question put, and agreed to.

2. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £13,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for Rates and Contributions in lieu of Rates, etc., in respect of Government property."

Discussion :—

Mr. Caldwell (*Lanarkshire, Mid*) 240
Mr. Austen Chamberlain 243
Sir Thomas Esmonde 244
Sir Albert Rollit 244
Mr. Daly (*Monaghan, S.*) 244
Mr. Caldwell 245
Mr. Dillon 245
Sir Walter Foster 246
Mr. Austen Chamberlain 246
Mr. O'Doherty 246
Mr. Tully (*Leitrim, S.*) 247
Mr. Caldwell 247
Mr. Field 247

Motion made, and Question proposed,

"That a sum, not exceeding £12,900, be granted for the said Service."—(*Mr. Field.*)

Discussion :—

Mr. Austen Chamberlain 248
Mr. Field 248
The Chancellor of the Exchequer (*Sir M. Hicks Beach, Bristol, W.*).. 248

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Original Question put, and agreed to.

3. £7,000 (Supplementary), Railways, Ireland.

Discussion :—

Mr. Gibson Bowles 249
Mr. Austen Chamberlain 249
Colonel Nolan (*Galway, N.*) 249
Mr. Tully 249

Resolution agreed to.

CLASS II.

4. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £6,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the salaries and expenses of the Department of His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs."

Mr. Dillon 251

Motion made, and Question proposed,

"That a sum, not exceeding £3,000, be granted for the said Service."—(*Mr. Dillon.*)

The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (*Viscount Cranborne, Rochester*) 252
Mr. Labouchere 252
Mr. J. P. Farrell 253

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 90 ; Noes, 153. (Division List No. 29.)

Original Question put, and agreed to.

5. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £7,200, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Department of His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies."

Mr. Dillon 257

Motion made and Question proposed—

"That a sum, not exceeding £4,200, be granted for the said Service."—(*Mr. Dillon.*)

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Discussion :—

Mr. Labouchere 258
Mr. Sydney Buxton 258
Mr. Dillon 258
The Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. J. Chamberlain, Birmingham, W.) 259
Mr. Flynn (Cork, N.) 260
Mr. Crean (Cork, S.E.) 260
Mr. Patrick O'Brien (Kilkenny) 260

Attention called to the fact that forty Members were not present. House counted, and forty Members being found present—

Mr. Daly 262
Mr. O'Mara (Kilkenny, S.) 263

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 91 ; Noes, 149. (Division List No. 30.)

Original Question put, and agreed to.

6. Motion made, and Question proposed, " That a sum, not exceeding £1,015, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Salaries and Expenses of the office of the Lord Privy Seal."

Discussion :—

Mr. Dalziel (Kirkcaldy Burghs) 265
The First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) 270
Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman (Stirling Burghs) 272
Mr. Gibson Bowles 274
Mr. T. P. O'Connor (Liverpool, Scotland) 276
Sir J. Fergusson (Manchester, N.E.) 277
Mr. Edmund Robertson (Dundee) 278
The Attorney General (Sir Robert Finlay, Inverness Burghs) 279
Mr. Sydney Buxton 279
Mr. Malcolm (Suffolk, Stowmarket) 280
Mr. Hemphill (Tyrone, N.) 281
Mr. A. J. Balfour 282
Mr. Labouchere 285

Motion made, and Question proposed,

" That a sum, not exceeding £257, be granted for the said Service."
—(*Mr. Labouchere.*)

Colonel Nolan 285
Mr. Coghill (Stoke-upon-Trent) 286

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 107 ; Noes, 183. (Division List No. 31.)

Original Question put, and agreed to.

Resolutions to be reported.

Motion made, and Question proposed,

"That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £110,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for Stationery, Printing, Paper, Binding, and Printed Books for the Public Service."

Discussion :—

Mr. Flynn 289
Mr. Lough (Islington, W.) 291
Mr. Austen Chamberlain 292
Sir Thomas Esmonde 293
Mr. Tully 294

It being midnight, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Resolutions to be reported upon Monday next; Committee also report Progress; to sit again upon Monday next.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR.—Question, Mr. Flavin; Answer, The Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury (Sir William Walrond, Devonshire, Tiverton) 296

Adjourned at three minutes after Twelve of the clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS: MONDAY, 4TH MARCH, 1901.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The Lord Chancellor acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with:—Omagh Gas [H.L.]; Royal Exchange Assurance [H.L.]; Faversham Water [H.L.]; Sheffield District Railway [H.L.]; Cardiff Railway [H.L.]; Nitrate Railways Company [H.L.]; Rhymney and Aber Valleys Gas and Water [H.L.]. The same were ordered to lie on the Table 297

South Lancashire Tramways Bill [H.L.].—Presented; read 1^a; and referred to the Examiners 297

Watford and District Tramways Bill [H.L.]—Presented, and read 1^a .. 297

Portmadoc, Beddgelert, and South Snowdon Railway Bill [H.L.]; Stratton and Bude Gas Bill [H.L.].—Read 2^a 297

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

ECCLESIASTICAL COMMISSION.—Fifty-third Report from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England; with an appendix. Presented [by Command], and ordered to lie on the Table 297

UNIVERSITIES (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1889.—Abstract of Accounts for the University of Glasgow for the year ended 30th September, 1900, being the Annual Report on the State of the Finances of the University under the provisions of Section 30 of the Act 297

INCLOSURE, ETC., EXPENSES ACT, 1868.—Fees to be taken in respect of transactions under the Agricultural Holdings Acts, 1883 to 1900, in accordance with the provisions of the Act 298

COMMONS ACT, 1876.—Reports by the Board of Agriculture upon an application for—

1. A Provisional Order for the inclosure of the open fields and the heath and wastes in the parish of Sutton, in the county of Northampton.
2. Provisional Orders for the regulation of the common and for the inclosure of the open fields respectively, at Skipwith, in the East Riding of the county of York 298

MILITIA ACT, 1882 (DEPUTY LIEUTENANTS).—Returns of descriptions of qualifications of Deputy Lieutenants, lodged during 1900, as furnished to the Chief Secretary for Ireland 298

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

NAVAL MANŒUVRES AND MERCHANT SHIPPING.—Question, Lord Muskerry; Answer, The First Lord of the Admiralty (The Earl of Selborne) 298

Light Load-Line Bill [H.L.]—[SECOND READING]—Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

Lord Muskerry 298

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2a."—(*Lord Muskerry.*)

Lord Heneage 305

Moved, "To leave out 'now,' and insert at the end of the motion 'this day six months.'"—(*The Lord Heneage.*)

Discussion :—

The Earl of Glasgow 308
Lord Kelvin 309
The Earl of Dunraven 310
The Secretary to the Board of Trade (*The Earl of Dudley*) 311
Lord Norton 316

On Question, whether the word "now" stand part of the Question, the House divided :—Contents, 32; Not-Contents, 66.

Bill to be read 2^a this day six months.

WAR OFFICE ADMINISTRATION—DUTIES OF COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF :—

Discussion :—

The Duke of Bedford 317
The Under Secretary of State for War (*Lord Raglan*) 323
Viscount Wolseley 327
The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (*The Marquess of Lansdowne*) 345

The further debate was adjourned (on the motion of the Earl of Northbrook) till To-morrow.

London Underground Railways.—Moved to resolve, "That it is desirable that a Select Committee be appointed to join with a Committee of the House of Commons to consider and report—

1. Whether the lines of route for underground railways in and near London, proposed by Bills which have been or may be introduced during the present Session, are best calculated to afford facilities for present and probable future traffic; and, if not, that modifications of those lines of route are desirable.
2. What special provisions, if any, should be made for the protection of the owners, lessees, and occupiers of properties adjacent to underground railways from possible damage and annoyance.
3. What special terms and conditions, if any, as to construction and working should be imposed upon the promoters.
4. Whether any, and which, of the schemes proposed by the said Bills should not be proceeded with during the present session."

—(*The Chairman of Committees.*)

Agreed to. Ordered that a Message be sent to the Commons to communicate this resolution, and to desire their concurrence.

Committee of Selection for the Standing Committee.—Report from, That the Committee have nominated the following Lords to serve as Chairmen of the Standing Committee:—E. Halsbury (Lord Chancellor), E. Spencer, E. Morley, E. Camperdown, V. Cross, and L. Elgin (E. Elgin and Kincardine). Read, and ordered to lie on the Table 358

The Imperial Yeomanry—Riding Test.—Question, The Marquess of Ailesbury; Answer, Lord Raglan.. 358

House adjourned at ten minutes past Eight of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: MONDAY, 4th MARCH, 1901.

Two other Members took and subscribed the Oath.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Private Bills (Standing Order 62 Complied With).—Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order No. 62 has been complied with, viz.:—Devonport Gas and Coke Bill; Glasgow and Renfrew District Railway Transfer Bill; North British Railway Company; Thames Deep Water Dock Bill. Ordered That the Bills be read a second time 359

Private Bills (Petition for Additional Provision) (Standing Orders not Complied With).—Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the Petition for additional Provision in the following Bill, the Standing Orders have not been complied with, viz.:—London, Tilbury, and Southend Railway Bill. Ordered, That the Report be referred to the Select Committee on Standing Orders 359

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Bexley Tramways Bill.—"To empower the Urban District Council of Bexley to construct and work tramways; and for other purposes," read the first time; to be read a second time. 359

Cambrian Railways Bill.—"To authorise the Cambrian Railways Company to extend their railway at Pwllheli; to construct a fixed instead of an opening bridge over the River Dovey; to grant further powers to that company in respect of the use of steam vessels; and for other purposes," read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills 359

South Yorkshire Electric Power Bill.—"For incorporating and conferring powers on the South Yorkshire Electric Power Company; and for other purposes," read the first time; to be read a second time 360

Aldeburgh Corporation (Water) Bill; Bingley Urban District Council Bill; Blackburn Corporation Bill; Bradford Corporation Bill; Brighton Corporation Bill; Bury Corporation Bill; Bury Corporation Tramways Bill; Burton-upon-Trent Corporation Bill; Caledonian Electric Power Bill; Cardiff Corporation Bill; Cleveland and Durham County Electric Power Bill; Clyde Valley Electrical Power Bill; Colwyn Bay and Colwyn Urban District Gas Bill; Derby Corporation Bill; Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Electric Power Bill; Devonport Corporation (Gas) Bill; Derwent Valley Water Board Bill; Eccles Corporation Bill; Hartlepools Gas and Water Transfer Bill; Heckmondwike Gas (Transfer) Bill; Honley Urban District Council (Gas) Bill; Humber Commercial Railway and Dock Bill; Ilkeston and Heanor Water Board Bill; Irish Presbyterian Church Bill. Read a second time, and committed 360

Kettering Urban District Water Bill; Kingston-upon-Hull Corporation Bill; Llandrindod Wells Urban District Council Water Bill; London Bridge Widening Bill; London County Council (General Powers) Bill; Mansfield Corporation Bill; Neath Harbour Bill; Newry Port and Harbour Trust Bill; Paisley Police and Public Health Bill; Pembroke Urban District Council (County of Dublin) Bill; Petersfield and Selsey Gas Bill; Rhyl Improvement Bill; Shannon Water and Electric Power Bill; Shireoaks, Laughton, and Maltby Railway Bill; Southampton and Winchester Great Western Junction Railway Bill; Stalybridge, Hyde, Mossley, and Dukinfield Tramways and Electricity Board Bill; Swanage Gas and Water Bill; Tees Valley Water Board Bill; Thames Piers and River Service Bill; Wallasey Improvement Bill; Wells Corporation Water Bill; Wolverhampton and Cannock Chase Railway Bill; Yorkshire Electric Power Bill. Read a second time, and committed 361

MORTON CARR DRAINAGE.—Petition, and Bill ordered to be brought in by Sir Frederick Milner and Mr. Faber 361

PETITIONS.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (HIGHER GRADE AND EVENING CONTINUATION SCHOOLS).—Petitions for alteration of Law, from Kingston-upon-Hull; Ipswich; Enfield; Shipley; Ilford; Newcastle-upon-Tyne; Wellingborough; and Kettering; to lie upon the Table 361

GABINDDAS.—Petition from Gabinddas, for redress of grievances; to lie upon the Table 362

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POOR LAW OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1896.—Petitions for alteration of Law, from Barnes; Ham; Heston and Isleworth; Ipswich; and Kingston-upon-Hull; to lie upon the Table 362

SAHU, JUGRUP.—Petition from Jugrup Sahu, for redress of grievances; to lie upon the Table 362

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY BILL.—Petition from Leighton Buzzard, in favour; to lie upon the Table.. 362

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN BILL.—Petitions in favour, from Leighton Buzzard; and Rotherham; to lie upon the Table 362

VACCINATION ACTS.—Petition from London, for repeal; to lie upon the Table 362

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

MILITIA ACT, 1882 (DEPUTY LIEUTENANTS, IRELAND).—Copy presented, of Return of descriptions of qualifications of Deputy Lieutenants lodged during 1900, as furnished to the Secretary for Ireland [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 362

UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW.—Copy presented, of Abstract of Accounts of the University of Glasgow for the year ending 30th September, 1900 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 70.] 362

COMMONS ACT, 1876 (SKIPWITH, EAST RIDING OF YORK).—Copy presented, of Report by the Board of Agriculture upon an application for Provisional Orders for the Regulation of the Common and for the Inclosure of the Open Fields, respectively, at Skipwith, in the East Riding of the county of York [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 71.] .. 362

COMMONS ACT, 1876 (SUTTON, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE).—Copy presented, of Report by the Board of Agriculture upon an application for a Provisional Order for the Inclosure of the Open Fields and the Heath and Wastes in the parish of Sutton, in the county of Northampton [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 72.] 363

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (INCLOSURE, ETC., EXPENSES ACT, 1868).—Copy presented, of Fees to be taken in respect of Transactions under the Agricultural Holdings Acts, 1883 to 1900, in accordance with the provisions of The Inclosure, etc., Expenses Act, 1868 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 363

ECCLESIASTICAL COMMISSION.—Copy presented, of Fifty-third Report from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England, with an Appendix [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 363

PAUPERISM (ENGLAND AND WALES) (HALF-YEARLY STATEMENTS).—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 1st March; *Mr. Grant Lawson*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 73.] 363

WOODS, FORESTS, AND LAND REVENUES.—Abstract Accounts presented, for the year ended 31st March, 1900, together with the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 74.] 363

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MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS IN RECEIPT OF PUBLIC MONEY.—Return ordered, "showing the names of present Members of the House of Commons who are in receipt of Public Money from any public source, whether in the form of Salary, Pension, Pay, or Allowance of any kind, or who have received Commutation in respect thereof under the Commutation Acts; the amount they receive or have commuted, with the amount of the Commutation Money; and the name of the Office or nature of the Service for which the Money is or has been paid (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 197, of Session 1897)."—(*Mr. Fenwick.*) 363

QUESTIONS.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—ALLEGED BOER RECRUITING IN BELGIUM.—Question, Mr. Thomas Dewar (Tower Hamlets, St. George's); Answer, The First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) 264

JAMESON RAID—CHARTERED COMPANY'S LIABILITY.—Questions, Mr. Alfred Davies (Carmarthen Boroughs) and Sir John Brunner (Cheshire, Northwich); Answers, The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Sir M. Hicks Beach, Bristol, W.) 364

FALSE ANNOUNCEMENTS ON NEWSPAPER BILLS.—Questions, Major Rasch (Essex, Chelmsford) and Mr. Patrick O'Brien (Kilkenny); Answer, The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Ritchie, Croydon) 366

BRITISH REVERSES—COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF'S REPORT—Questions, Mr. Winston Churchill (Oldham) and Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean); Answers, The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford) 366

PAARDEBERG OPERATIONS.—Question, Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.); Answer, Mr. Brodrick, ... 367

BLOEMFONTEIN HOSPITALS.—Question, Mr. Burdett-Coutts (Westminster); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 368

CIVIL SURGEONS IN SOUTH AFRICA.—Question, Mr. Burdett-Coutts; Answer, Mr. Brodrick 369

SOLDIERS' PENSIONS.—Question, Mr. Reginald Lucas (Portsmouth); Answer, The Financial Secretary to the War Office (Lord Stanley, Lancashire, Westhoughton) 369

COST OF TRANSPORT OF HORSES TO THE CAPE.—Questions, Mr. Cochrane (Ayrshire, N.) and Mr. James O'Connor (Wicklow, W.); Answers, Lord Stanley 369

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COMMISSIONS FOR THE YEOMANRY.—Question, Sir Joseph Leigh (Stockport); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 370

IMPERIAL YEOMANRY—ACCOMMODATION FOR RECRUITS AT ALDERSHOT.—Question, Colonel Lockwood (Essex, Epping); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 370

THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE'S YEOMANRY.—Question, Major Rasch; Answer, Mr. Brodrick 371

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Arbor Hill Barracks, Dublin—Contracts—Fair Wages Clause.—Question, Mr. Field (Dublin, St. Patrick's); Answer, Lord Stanley 372

Royal Army Medical Staff Corps—Recruiting Standards.—Question, Sir Walter Foster (Derbyshire, Ilkeston); Answer, Lord Stanley 372

Army Training—Responsibility of Adjutant General.—Questions, Colonel Welby and Mr. Lloyd-George (Carnarvon Boroughs); Answers, Mr. Brodrick 373

Deceased Soldiers' Savings—Serjeant-Major Garner.—Question, Colonel Lockwood; Answer, Lord Stanley 374

Irish Linen Khaki.—Questions, Mr. Daly (Monaghan, S.) and Mr. William Johnston (Belfast, S.); Answers, Lord Stanley 375

Admiralty Contracts at Barrow-in-Furness.—Question, Mr. Nannetti (Dublin, College Green); Answer, The Civil Lord of the Admiralty (Mr. Pretyman, Suffolk, Woodbridge) 376

Royal Visit to the Colonies—Press Accommodation.—Question, Mr. Patrick O'Brien; Answer, Mr. Pretyman 376

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SOUTH ARMAGH MAGISTRACY.—Question, Mr. John Campbell (Armagh, S.); Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Wyndham, Dover) 384

SMALL DWELLINGS (ACQUISITION) ACT—PURCHASES AND LOANS.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 385

IRISH LAND—REDEMPTION OF CROWN AND QUIT RENTS.—Question, Sir Thomas Esmonde (Wexford, N.); Answer, Sir M. Hicks Beach 385

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GOREY LICENSING CASE.—Question, Sir Thomas Esmonde; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 389

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FAIR RENT APPLICATIONS IN COUNTY KILDARE.—Question, Mr. Carew (Meath, S.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 391

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BIRR AND PORTUMNA RAILWAY.—Question, Mr. Reddy (King's County, Birr); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 392

IRISH NATIONAL TEACHERS' SALARIES.—Question, Mr. Thomas O'Donnell (Kerry, W.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 392

LAND LAW ADMINISTRATION IN EAST TYRONE.—Question, Mr. Doogan (Tyrone, E.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 392

IRISH PRE-UNION STATUTES.—Question, Mr. Channing (Northamptonshire, E.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 393

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PROTECTION OF IRISH FISHERIES.—Question, Mr. Power; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 395

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HORSE-BREEDING IN QUEEN'S COUNTY.—Question, Mr. Delany (Queen's County, Ossory); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 396

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BELTURBET POST OFICE.—Question, Mr. M'Govern (Cavan, W.); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 398

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IRISH LIGHTS—MAIDEN ROCK, KENMARE BAY.—Question, Mr. Joyce (Limerick); Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 400

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DEFENCE OF GIBRALTAR.—Question, Mr. O'Kelly (Roscommon, N.); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 401

ANGLO-PORTUGUESE TREATY—M. DELCASSE'S SPEECH.—Questions, Mr. O'Kelly and Mr. Boland (Kerry, S.); Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour 402

ROYAL DECLARATION AGAINST ROMAN CATHOLICISM.—Questions, Mr. Joyce and Mr. John Redmond; Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour 402

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.—Questions, Mr. Dillon, Sir J. Fergusson (Manchester, N.E.), Sir Charles Dilke, and Mr. John Redmond; Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour 404

NEW MEMBER SWORN.—Sir Francis Henry Evans, K.C.M.G., for the Borough of Maidstone 404

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PROCEDURE OF THE HOUSE—AMENDMENT OF STANDING ORDERS.—Standing Order No. 51 read.

The First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) 404

Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That Standing Order No. 51 be amended, in line 4, by leaving out the words 'or of Ways and Means.'"—*(Mr. A. J. Balfour.)*

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Standing Order."

Discussion :—

Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman (Stirling Burghs) 410
Mr. Gibson Bowles (Lynn Regis) 412
Mr. Lough (Islington, W.) 419
Mr. Elliot (Durham) 423
Mr. Caine (Cornwall, Camborne) 424
Mr. Bartley (Islington, N.) 425
Mr. George Whiteley (Yorkshire, W.R., Pudsey) 427
Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.) 428
Mr. Disraeli (Cheshire, Altrincham) 430
Mr. Field (Dublin, St. Patrick) 430
Mr. Alexander Cross (Glasgow, Camlachie) 432
Sir William Harcourt (Monmouthshire, W.) 433
The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Sir M. Hicks Beach, Bristol, W.) 435
Mr. Dalziel (Kirkcaldy Burghs) 439
Mr. T. W. Russell (Tyrone, S.) 441

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 161 ; Noes, 255. (Division List No. 32.)

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE (FINANCIAL BUSINESS) :—

Mr. A. J. Balfour 445

Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That, until Easter, Financial Business do have precedence on Tuesday whenever set down by the Government, and that the provisions of Standing Order No. 56 be extended to that day."—*(Mr. Balfour.)*

Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 447
Mr. Herbert Roberts (Denbighshire, W.) 448
Mr. Daly (Monaghan, S.) 448

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 237 ; Noes, 144. (Division List No. 33.)

SUPPLY.—Considered in Committee.

[MR. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

NAVY (SUPPLEMENTARY) ESTIMATES, 1900–1901.

1. Motion made, and Question put, "A. That an additional number of men and boys, not exceeding 600, be employed for the Sea and Coastguard Services for the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901."

Discussion :—

The Civil Lord of the Admiralty (Mr. Pretyman, Suffolk, Woodbridge) 453
Mr. Kearley (Devonport) 453
Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.) 454
Mr. Daly (Monaghan, S.) 455
Mr. Corrie Grant (Warwickshire, Rugby) 456
Mr. Allen (Gloucestershire, Stroud) 456
Mr. Cullinan (Tipperary, S.) 456
Mr. William Allan (Gateshead) 456
Mr. Joyce (Limerick) 458

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 235 ; Noes, 67. (Division List No. 34.)

2. Motion made, and Question proposed, " That an additional sum, not exceeding £1,250,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for additional Expenditure on the following Navy Services, viz. :—

	£
Vote 1. Wages, etc., of Officers, etc.	500
Vote 2. Victualling and Clothing for the Navy	84,000
Vote 8. Shipbuilding, Repairs, Maintenance, etc. :—	
Section I. Personnel	98,500
Section II. Matériel	630,000
Section III. Contract Work	207,000
Vote 11. Miscellaneous Effective Services	230,000
Total	£1,250,000."

Discussion :—

Mr. Pretyman 461
Mr. William Allan 467

Attention called to the fact that forty Members were not present. House counted, and, forty Members being found present—

Mr. William Allan 467
Mr. Flynn 469
Commander Young (Berkshire, Wokingham) 472
Mr. Kearley 473
Sir Fortescue Flannery (Yorkshire, Shipley) 475
Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) 478
Sir John Colomb (Great Yarmouth) 480
Mr. Pretyman 480
Sir James Joicey (Durham, Chester-le-Street) 485
Sir John Colomb 487
Mr. E. J. C. Morton (Devonport) 488
Mr. Dillon 489

Motion made and Question proposed—

" That an additional sum, not exceeding £250,000, be granted for the said Services."—*(Mr. Dillon.)*

Mr. Crean (Cork, S.) 493
Mr. Joyce 496
Mr. Flavin (Kerry, N.) 496

Mr. A. J. Balfour rose in his place and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 221; Noes, 82. (Division List No. 35.)

Question put accordingly, "That an additional sum, not exceeding £250,000, be granted for the said Services."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 52; Noes, 248. (Division List No. 36.)

Mr. A. J. Balfour claimed, "That the Original Question be now put."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 246; Noes, 49. (Division List No. 37.)

It being after midnight, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Resolutions to be reported to-morrow. Committee to sit again to-morrow.

Adjourned at twenty-five minutes before One of the clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS, TUESDAY, 5th MARCH, 1901.

Several Lords took the Oath.

Address.—The King's Answer to the Address of the 25th of January last reported, and Address and Answer to be printed and published 509

Message from the King.—Delivered by the Lord Chancellor, and read. Ordered, That the said Message be taken into consideration on Thursday next .. 509

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The Lord Chancellor acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with:—Elland Gas [H.L.]; Albion Steam Coal Company [H.L.]. The same were ordered to lie on the Table 509

Rhymney and Aber Valleys Gas and Water Bill [H.L.].—The Chairman of Committees informed the House that the promoters do not intend to proceed further with the Bill. Ordered that the Bill be not further proceeded with 509

Aire and Calder Navigation Bill [H.L.]; Bath Gas Light and Coke Bill [H.L.]; Central London Railway Bill [H.L.]; Chester Gas Bill [H.L.]; City and Brixton Railway Bill [H.L.]; City and South London Railway Bill [H.L.]; Llanelly and Mynydd Mawr Railway Bill [H.L.]; London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway Bill [H.L.]; Newcastle-upon-Tyne and Gateshead Gas Bill [H.L.]; Newport (Isle of Wight) Gas Bill [H.L.]; New Swindon Gas Bill [H.L.]; Shrewsbury Gas Bill [H.L.]; South Eastern, and London, Chatham, and Dover Railways Bill [H.L.]; South Essex Water Bill [H.L.].—Read 2*a* 509

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RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TELEGRAPH MONEY ORDERS (SWEDEN).—Additional Articles to the Convention of the 7th and 12th of September, 1881, relative to the exchange of money orders between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and the Kingdom of Sweden, dated 1st to 8th September, 1900 510

ROYAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND.—Annual Report for the year 1900.
Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.. .. 510

SUPERANNUATION.—Treasury Minute, dated 21st February, 1901, granting a retired allowance to Mr. W. H. F. Crookshenk, Second Division Clerk, Money Order Office, General Post Office, under Section 2 of the Act. Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table 510

BRIDLINGTON PIERS AND HARBOUR.—Abstract of the general annual account for the year ended 26th July, 1900. Delivered (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table 511

Prisons (Scotland) Bill [H.L.].—A Bill to amend the law relating to Prisons in Scotland and for other purposes connected therewith—was presented by The Lord Balfour ; read 1*a* ; and to be printed. (No. 15.) 511

COMMITTEE OF SELECTION FOR STANDING COMMITTEES.—Report from, That the Committee have added The Lord Clifford of Chudleigh to the Standing Committee ; read, and ordered to lie on the Table 511

STANDING COMMITTEE.—Report from the Committee of Chairmen of the Standing Committee, that they have appointed the Viscount Cross Chairman of the Standing Committee ; read, and ordered to lie on the Table 511

WAR OFFICE ADMINISTRATION—DUTIES OF COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.—Order of the Day for resuming the debate on the present system of military administration at the War Office ; read.

Debate resumed :—

The Earl of Northbrook 511
Lord Chelmsford 517
The Earl of Dunraven 519
Earl Spencer 525
The Lord President of the Council (*The Duke of Devonshire*) 528
The Earl of Rosebery 535
The Prime Minister and Lord Privy Seal (*The Marquess of Salisbury*) 543
Viscount Wolseley 547

THE UNITED IRISH LEAGUE AND CRIME IN IRELAND—MURDER OF HUGH THOMPSON.

The Earl of Dartrey 548
The Earl of Denbigh 549

EARLY CLOSING OF SHOPS.—The Lords following were named of the Select Committee :—D. Marlborough, M. Salisbury, E. Stamford, E. Hardwicke, E. Romney, E. Verulam, L. Bp. Winchester, L. Brassey, L. Avebury. The Committee to meet on Friday next at a quarter before Four o'clock, and to appoint their own chairman.

House adjourned at five minutes past Seven of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, TUESDAY, 5TH MARCH, 1901.

Several other Members took and subscribed the Oath.

KING'S SPEECH (ANSWER TO ADDRESS).—The Comptroller of the Household reported His Majesty's Answer to the Address, as followeth. 550

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

London Water (Purchase) Bill.—Order for Second Reading read. Debate adjourned till Monday, 25th March 551

PRIVATE BILLS (STANDING ORDER 62 COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, Referred on the first reading thereof, Standing Order No. 62 has been complied with, viz. :—Burgess Hill Water Bill. Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time 551

Fairford and Cirencester Railway Bill; Mond Gas Bill. Read a second time, and committed 552

PETITIONS.

CHURCH DISCIPLINE.—Petition from East Dulwich, for alteration of Law ; to lie upon the Table 552

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (HIGHER GRADE AND EVENING CONTINUATION SCHOOLS).—Petitions for alteration of Law, from Derby ; New Mills ; Blackburn ; Fenny Stratford ; Shepley ; Thornton in Craven ; Steeton with Eastburn ; Sutton in Keighley ; Walmersley and Ramsbottom ; Acton ; and Dewsbury ; to lie upon the Table 552

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (SCOTCH CODE).—Petition from Leith, for alteration ; to lie upon the Table 552

OFFICERS OF THE INDIAN STAFF CORPS.—Six hundred and fourteen Petitions from Officers of the Indian Staff Corps, for redress of grievances ; to lie upon the Table 552

POOR LAW OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1896.—Petitions for alteration of Law, from Epsom ; Ashton-in-Makerfield ; and Acton ; to lie upon the Table 552

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY BILL.—Petition from Little Heath ; in favour ; to lie upon the Table 552

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN BILL.—Petitions in favour, from Govan ; Aberdeen ; Windermere ; Glasgow ; Newcastle-on-Tyne ; and Kilmalcolm ; to lie upon the Table 552

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Three Petitions from Gourock, in favour ; to lie upon the Table 552

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RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

BANKRUPTCY (IRELAND).—Return [presented 6th December, 1900] to be printed. [No. 75.] 553

POST OFFICE (TELEGRAPH MONEY ORDERS).—Copy presented, of Additional Articles to the Convention of the 7th, 12th September, 1881, relative to the exchange of Money Orders between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and the Kingdom of Sweden, dated 1st to 8th September, 1901 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 553

SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1887.—Copy presented, of Treasury Minute, dated 21st February, 1901, granting a retired allowance to Mr. W. H. F. Crookshank, a Second Division Clerk, Money Order Office, General Post Office, under the Act [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 553

NAVY (DOCKYARD EXPENSE ACCOUNTS, 1899-1900).—Annual Accounts presented, for 1899-1900, of Shipbuilding and Dockyard Transactions, etc., with Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 76.] 553

ROYAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND.—Copy presented, of Nineteenth Report of the Royal University of Ireland, being for the year 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 553

PAPERS LAID UPON THE TABLE BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE:—1. Controverted Elections, Further Return.—Copy of Minutes of Evidence and Judgment in the Borough of Islington (West Division) Election Trial [ordered 22nd February; *Mr. Attorney General*]. 2. Bridlington Piers and Harbour.—Copy of Abstract of the General Annual Account for the year ending 26th July, 1900 [by Act]. 553

UNFUNDED DEBT.—Return ordered, "of the amount of the Unfunded Debt on the 27th day of February, 1901, showing upon what terms and for what period it has been raised."—(*Sir Edgar Vincent.*) 553

CONTROVERTED ELECTIONS.—West Islington Election Petition.—Mr. Speaker informed the House that he had received from the Judges appointed to try the several Election Petitions the Certificate and Report relating to the West Division of the Borough of Islington 554

QUESTIONS.

SOUTH AFRICA—JAMESON RAID—LIABILITY OF THE BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA COMPANY.—Question, Sir John Brunner (Cheshire, Northwich); Answer, The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Sir M. Hicks Beach, Bristol, W.) .. 554

EXPENDITURE OF THE COLONIES FOR THEIR CONTINGENTS.—Question, Mr. Causton (Southwark, W.); Answer, The Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. J. Chamberlain, Birmingham, W.) 555

PRESS PROSECUTIONS IN CAPE COLONY.—Questions, Mr. Pirie (Aberdeenshire, N.) and Mr. H. J. Wilson (Yorkshire, W.R., Holmfirth); Answers, Mr. J. Chamberlain 555

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PRECAUTIONS AGAINST PLAGUE AT CAPE TOWN.—Questions, Sir Walter Foster (Derbyshire, Ilkeston); Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain 556

CONCENTRATION CAMPS—TREATMENT OF BOER WOMEN.—Question, Mr. C. P. Scott (Lancashire, Leigh); Answer, The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford).. 557

MILITARY COURTS OF INQUIRY.—Questions, Mr. Lambert (Devonshire, South Molton), Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett (Sheffield, Ecclesall), and Mr. Courtney Warner (Staffordshire, Lichfield); Answers, Mr. Brodrick 558

NEGOTIATIONS WITH GENERAL BOTHA.—Question, Mr. Dalziel (Kirkcaldy Burghs); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 558

BRITISH SURRENDERS—COURTS-MARTIAL.—Question, Mr. Lambert; Answer, Mr. Brodrick 559

CIVIL LAWS IN THE TRANSVAAL.—Question, Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 559

TREATMENT OF COLOURED PERSONS IN THE TRANSVAAL.—Question, Sir Charles Dilke; Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain 559

COMFORTS FOR TROOPS AT THE FRONT.—Questions, Mr. Renshaw (Renfrewshire, W.), Mr. Flynn (Cork, N.); Answers, Mr. Brodrick 560

RETURN OF TROOPS.—Question, Mr. Pirie; Answer, Mr. Brodrick 560

INDIAN RELIEFS.—Question, Captain Norton (Newington, W.); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 561

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF IN IRELAND—H.R.H. THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT.—Questions, Mr. James O'Connor (Wicklow, W.) and Mr. Flynn; Answer, Mr. Brodrick 562

SOLDIERS' WIDOWS' PENSIONS.—Question, Mr. Bartley (Islington, N.); Answer, The Financial Secretary to the War Office (Lord Stanley, Lancashire, Westhoughton) 562

BIRMINGHAM POLICEMEN SERVING IN SOUTH AFRICA—RATE OF PAY.—Question, Mr. Mansfield (Lincolnshire, Spalding); Answer, Lord Stanley 562

ARMY MEAT AND FORAGE CONTRACTS—PROPOSED IRISH DEPOT.—Questions, Mr. Field (Dublin, St. Patrick) and Captain Donelan (Cork County, E.); Answers, Lord Stanley 563

YEOMANRY EXERCISE AT HERTFORD.—Question, Mr. M'Laren (Leicestershire, Bosworth); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 563

SHROPSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY—TIPPERARY RIOTS.—Question, Mr. Cullinan (Tipperary, S.) and Mr. Patrick O'Brien (Kilkenny); Answers, Lord Stanley 564

COMMITTEE ON WATER-TUBE BOILER.—Question, Mr. E. J. C. Morton (Devonport); Answer, The Civil Lord of the Admiralty (Mr. Pretyman, Suffolk, Woodbridge) 564

H.M.S. "BRITANNIA"—OUTBREAK OF PNEUMONIA.—Questions, Mr. Norman (Wolverhampton, S.) and Mr. Lambert; Answers, Mr. Pretyman 564

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THE INQUIRY AS TO NAVAL WORKS AT GIBRALTAR.—Question, Mr. Causton (Southwark, W.); Answer, The First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) 566

INDIAN STAFF CORPS.—Question, Sir Seymour King (Hull, Central); Answer, The Secretary of State for India (Lord G. Hamilton, Middlesex, Ealing).. 566

COOPERS HILL COLLEGE.—Questions, Mr. O'Mara (Kilkenny, S.) and Mr. Bartley; Answers, Lord G. Hamilton 566

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CHINESE TARIFFS.—Question, Earl Percy (Kensington, S.); Answer, Viscount Cranborne 568

IRISH TAXATION.—Questions, Mr. Field and Mr. Flynn; Answers, Sir M. Hicks Beach 569

POLICE PENSION STATISTICS.—Question, Mr. Parker Smith (Lanarkshire, Partick); Answer, The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Ritchie, Croydon) 570

HOUSE PAINTERS AND LEAD POISONING.—Question, Mr. Coghill (Stoke-upon-Trent; Answer, Mr. Ritchie 570

LONDON SCHOOL BOARD—REHOUSING POLICY.—Question, Mr. Hay (Shoreditch, Hoxton); Answer, Mr. Ritchie 570

RAILWAY RATES FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Gerald Balfour, Leeds, Central) .. 571

CARRIAGE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE TO LONDON BY ROAD.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 571

BREACHES OF THE COMPANY LAW.—Question, Sir Seymour King; Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 571

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL WATER BILL.—Question, Mr. M'Laren; Answer, The President of the Local Government Board (Mr. Long, Bristol, S.) 572

MILK INSPECTION.—Question, Mr. Brigg (Yorkshire, W.R., Keighley); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 572

SECONDARY EDUCATION.—Question, Mr. Pym (Bedford); Answer, The Vice President of the Board of Education (Sir J. Gorst, Cambridge University) 572

IRISH GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Sir J. Gorst.. .. 573

PALACE YARD—LIGHTING ARRANGEMENTS.—Question, Sir Henry Fowler (Wolverhampton, E.); Answer, The First Commissioner of Works (Mr. Akers Douglas, Kent, St. Augustine) 574

VENTILATION OF THE DIVISION LOBBIES.—Question, Colonel Welby (Taunton); Answer, Mr. Akers Douglas 574

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Members' Accommodation.—Question, Mr. Harwood (Bolton); Answer, Mr. Akers Douglas 574

Postal Good Conduct Stripes—Claim of Linesmen.—Question, Mr. Platt-Higgins (Salford, N.); Answer, The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Worcestershire, E.) 574

Welsh Telegraphic Addresses.—Question, Mr. Lloyd-George (Carnarvon Boroughs); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 575

Postmen and the Census.—Question, Dr. Macnamara (Camberwell, N.); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 575

Relatives on Postal Staffs.—Question, Mr. Goddard (Ipswich); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 576

Irish Workhouse Dietary.—Question, Mr. Daly (Monaghan, S.); Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Wyndham, Dover) 576

Enniscorthy Asylum Loan.—Question, Sir Thomas Esmonde (Wexford, N.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 577

Salaries of Local Government Officials.—Questions, Sir Thomas Esmonde and Mr. Cullinan; Answers, Mr. Wyndham 578

Land Loans in County Wexford.—Question, Sir Thomas Esmonde; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 578

Irish National Education Board.—Question, Mr. Thomas O'Donnell (Kerry, W.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 579

Irish Sealed Local Government Orders.—Questions, Mr. M'Govern (Cavan, W.) and Mr. Flavin (Kerry, N.); Answers, Mr. Wyndham 580

Irish Local Government Auditors.—Question, Mr. John O'Donnell (Mayo, S.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 580

Asylum Committee's Accounts Audit.—Question, Mr. John O'Donnell; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 581

Land Purchase in County Galway.—Question, Colonel Nolan (Galway, N.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 582

Irish Teachers—Result Fees.—Question, Mr. Thomas O'Donnell; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 582

Sheep Worrying by Dogs in Ireland.—Questions, Mr. Delaney (Queen's County, Ossory) and Mr. Field; Answers, Mr. Wyndham 582

Ulster Winter Assizes.—Question, Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.); Answer, The Attorney General for Ireland (Mr. Atkinson, Londonderry, N.) 583

Irish Land Finance.—Question, Mr. T. W. Russell (Tyrone, S.); Answer, Mr. Atkinson 583

Irish Franciscan MSS.—Question, Sir Thomas Esmonde; Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 584

Cashel Postal Messenger.—Question, Mr. Cullinan; Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 584

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ROYAL DECLARATION AGAINST ROMAN CATHOLICISM—CORONATION OATH.—Questions, Colonel Nolan, Mr. William Redmond (Clare, E.), Mr. James O'Connor, and Mr. John Redmond (Waterford); Answers, Mr. J. Chamberlain and Mr. A. J. Balfour 586

CIVIL SERVICE ESTIMATES.—Questions, Mr. Loder (Brighton) and Mr. Dillon; Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour 587

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.—Questions, Mr. Courtney Warner and Mr. Lough (Islington, W.); Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour 587

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES) (CHAIRMEN'S PANEL).—Mr. Halsey reported from the Committee of Selection that they had selected the following six Members to be the Chairmen's Panel and to serve as Chairmen of the two Standing Committees to be appointed under Standing Order No. 47:—Mr. John Ellis, Sir James Fergusson, Lord Edmund Fitzmaurice, Mr. Laurence Hardy, Colonel Nolan, and Mr. Stuart-Wortley. Report to lie upon the Table 588

MESSAGE FROM HIS MAJESTY (HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN AND MEMBERS OF HIS MAJESTY'S FAMILY).—The Chancellor of the Exchequer (at the Bar) acquainted the House that he had a Message from the King to this House signed by His Majesty's own hand. And he presented the same to the House, and it was read by Mr. Speaker (all the Members being uncovered) 588

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS—LONDON UNDERGROUND RAILWAYS.—That they have come to the following resolution, viz.—"That it is desirable that a Select Committee be appointed to join with a Committee of the House of Commons to consider and report:—

1. Whether the lines of route for underground railways in and near London, proposed by Bills which have been or may be introduced during the present Session, are best calculated to afford facilities for present and probable future traffic; and, if not, what modifications of those lines of route are desirable;
2. What special provision, if any, should be made for the protection of the owners, lessees, and occupiers of properties adjacent to underground railways from possible damage and annoyance;
3. What special terms and conditions, if any, as to the construction and working should be imposed upon the promoters;
4. Whether any, and which, of the schemes proposed by the said Bills should not be proceeded with during the present Session" .. 589

NEW BILLS.

WATER COMPANIES (LIABILITY FOR STORAGE WATER).—Bill to amend the Law relating to the liability of Water Companies for the Storage of Water, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Sinclair, Major Rasch, Mr. Rentoul, Mr. Flynn, and Mr. A. Thomas.

Water Companies (Liability for Storage Water) Bill.—"To amend the law relating to the liability of Water Companies for the Storage of Water," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Tuesday, 19th March, and to be printed. [Bill 81.] 589

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Employers' Liability Extension.—Bill to Amend the Acts relating to Employers' Liability, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Sinclair, Major Rasch, Mr. Rentoul, Mr. Boulnois, Mr. Flynn, and Mr. A. Thomas.

Employers' Liability Extension Bill.—"To amend the Acts relating to Employers' Liability," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Tuesday, 19th March, and to be printed. [Bill 82.] .. 590

Lights on Vehicles.—Bill to require Vehicles on highways to carry lamps at night, ordered to be brought in by Sir Robert Mowbray, Mr. Bryce, Mr. Grenfell, Sir John Leng, Mr. Scott Montagu, Mr. Wanklyn, and Sir Albert Rollit.

Lights on Vehicles Bill.—"To require Vehicles on highways to carry lamps at night," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Thursday next, and to be printed. [Bill 83.] 590

Factory and Workshop Act (1871) Amendment.—Bill to amend the Factory and Workshop Act, 1878, by reducing the period of employment on Saturday, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Harwood and Mr. Kenyon.

Factory and Workshop (1878) Amendment Bill.—"To amend the Factory and Workshop Act, 1878, by reducing the period of employment on Saturday," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Thursday, 21st March, and to be printed. [Bill 84.] 590

Rivers Pollution Prevention.—Bill to make more effectual provision for the prevention of the Pollution of Rivers and Streams, ordered to be brought in by Sir Francis Powell, Mr. Wilson-Todd, Mr. Henry Hobhouse, Sir John Dorington, Dr. Farquharson, Mr. Brigg, Sir John Brunner, and Sir Walter Foster.

Rivers Pollution Prevention Bill.—"To make more effectual Provision for the prevention of the Pollution of Rivers and Streams," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Wednesday, 8th May, and to be printed. [Bill 85.].. 590

Sunday Closing (Wales) Act (1881) Amendment.—Bill to amend the Sunday Closing (Wales) Act, 1881, and to make further provision respecting the sale of intoxicating liquors in Wales and Monmouthshire, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Herbert Roberts, Mr. Alfred Thomas, Mr. Lloyd-George, Mr. William Jones, and Mr. Herbert Lewis.

Sunday Closing (Wales) (1881) Amendment Bill.—"To amend the Sunday Closing (Wales) Act, 1881, and to make further provision respecting Liquors in Wales and Monmouthshire," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Wednesday, 20th March, and to be printed. [Bill 86.] 591

Parliamentary Elections (Mariners' Votes).—Bill to enable Officers and Seamen of the Royal Navy and Mercantile Marine and Fishermen to record their votes when by reason of their calling they will be at sea on the day of poll, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Macdona, Sir John Colomb, Mr. Cust, Mr. David Morgan, Sir Seymour King, Mr. Firbank, and Sir Christopher Furness.

Parliamentary Elections (Mariners' Votes) Bill.—"To enable Officers and Seamen of the Royal Navy and Mercantile Marine and Fishermen to record their votes when by reason of their calling they will be at sea on the day of the poll," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Tuesday next, and to be printed. [Bill 87.] 591

SUPPLY.—Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1901–2

(VOTE ON ACCOUNT).

Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That a sum, not exceeding £17,304,000, be granted to His Majesty, on account, for or towards defraying the Charges for the following Civil Services and Revenue Departments for the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1902, namely:—

CIVIL SERVICES.

Class IV.

	£
Board of Education	4,100,000

Class II.

Board of Trade	60,000

Class I.

Royal Palaces and Marlborough House	20,000
Royal Parks and Pleasure Gardens	40,000
Houses of Parliament Buildings	16,000
Gladstone Monument	1,000
Miscellaneous Legal Buildings, Great Britain	18,000
Art and Science Buildings, Great Britain	12,000
Diplomatic and Consular Buildings	12,000
Revenue Buildings	140,000
Public Buildings, Great Britain	145,000
Surveys of the United Kingdom	80,000
Harbours under the Board of Trade	2,000
Peterhead Harbour	6,000
Rates on Government Property	250,000
Public Works and Buildings, Ireland	70,000
Railways, Ireland	70,000

Class II.

United Kingdom and England:—

House of Lords, Offices	3,000
House of Commons, Offices	12,000
Treasury and Subordinate Departments	39,000
Home Office	50,000
Foreign Office	30,000
Colonial Office	23,000

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Privy Council Office, etc.	5,000
Privy Seal Office	1,000
Mercantile Marine Services	30,000
Bankruptcy Department of the Board of Trade	3
Board of Agriculture	75,000
Charity Commission	15,000
Civil Service Commission	18,000
Exchequer and Audit Department	21,000
Friendly Societies Registry	2,200
Local Government Board	85,000
Lunacy Commission	5,000
Mint (including Coinage)	10
National Debt Office	6,000
Public Record Office	11,000
Public Works Loan Commission	5
Registrar General's Office	130,000
Stationery and Printing	280,000
Woods, Forests, etc., Office of	8,000
Works and Public Buildings, Office of	23,000
Secret Service	40,000
Scotland :—	
Secretary for Scotland	25,500
Fishery Board	8,000
Lunacy Commission	2,500
Registrar General's Office	28,000
Local Government Board	5,000
Ireland :—	
Lord Lieutenant's Household	2,000
Chief Secretary and Subordinate Departments	16,000
Departments of Agriculture	70,000
Charitable Donations and Bequests Office	1,000
Local Government Board	26,000
Public Record Office	2,000
Public Works Office	16,000
Registrar General's Office	20,000
Valuation and Boundary Survey	6,000
Class III.	
United Kingdom and England :—	
Law Charges	40,000
Miscellaneous Legal Expenses	27,000
Supreme Court of Judicature	140,000
Land Registry	14,000
County Courts	14,000
Police, England and Wales	22,000
Prisons, England and the Colonies	260,000
Reformatory and Industrial Schools, Great Britain	140,000
Broadmoor Criminal Lunatic Asylum	18,000
Scotland :—	
Law Charges and Courts of Law	30,000
Register House, Edinburgh	15,000
Crofters Commission	2,000
Prisons, Scotland	30,000

Ireland :—	
Law Charges and Criminal Prosecutions	35,000
Supreme Court of Judicature, and other Legal Departments	45,000
Land Commission	50,000
County Court Officers, etc.	46,000
Dublin Metropolitan Police	40,000
Royal Irish Constabulary	600,000
Prisons, Ireland	45,000
Reformatory and Industrial Schools	55,500
Dundrum Criminal Lunatic Asylum	3,500
Class IV.	
United Kingdom and England :—	
British Museum	80,000
National Gallery	9,000
National Portrait Gallery	3,000
Wallace Collection	4,000
Scientific Investigation, etc., United Kingdom	25,000
Universities and Colleges, Great Britain, and Intermediate Education, Wales	41,000
Scotland :—	
Public Education	650,000
National Gallery	1,400
Ireland :—	
Public Education	600,000
Endowed Schools Commissioners	400
National Gallery	1,400
Queen's Colleges	2,500
Class V.	
Diplomatic and Consular Services	225,000
Uganda, Central and East Africa Protectorates and Uganda Railway	320,000
Colonial Services	230,000
Cyprus, Grants in Aid	15,000
Subsidies to Telegraph Companies	50,000
Class VI.	
Superannuation and Retired Allowances	280,000
Merchant Seamen's Fund Pensions, etc.	3,000
Miscellaneous Charitable and other Allowances	1,000
Hospitals and Charities, Ireland	17,000
Class VII.	
Temporary Commissions	10,082
Miscellaneous Expenses	8,000
	10,434,000
REVENUE DEPARTMENTS.	
Customs	350,000
Inland Revenue	830,000
Post Office	3,800,000
Post Office Packet Service	210,000
Post Office Telegraphs	1,680,000
Total for Revenue Departments	6,870,000
Grand Total	17,304,000"

Mr. Yoxall (Nottingham, W.) 594

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Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That the Item, Vote 1, Class 4 (Board of Education), be reduced by £100."—(*Mr. Yoxall.*)

Discussion :—

The Vice-President of The Board of Education (*Sir J. Gorst, Cambridge University*) 601
Mr. J. H. Whitley (*Halifax*) 613
Mr Flower (*Bradford, W.*) 615
Dr. Macnamara (*Camberwell, N.*) 618
Mr. Bryce (*Aberdeen, S.*) 626
Earl Percy (*Kensington, S.*) 624
Mr. George White (*Norfolk, N.W.*) 631
Mr. Henry Hobhouse (*Somersetshire, E.*) 640
Mr. Duke (*Plymouth*) 643
Mr. Lough (*Islington, W.*) 646
Mr Tully (*Leitrim, S.*) 650

Attention called to the fact that forty Members were not present. House counted, and forty Members being found present—

Mr. Tully 650
Mr. Richards (*Finsbury, E.*) 651
Mr. Alfred Hutton (*Yorkshire, W.R., Morley*) 653
Mr. Gray (*West Ham, N.*) 658
Sir Joseph Leese (*Lancashire, Accrington*) 667
Sir John Gorst 668
Mr. Mather (*Lancashire, Rossendale*) 673
Mr. Bond (*Nottingham, E.*) 678
Mr. Asquith (*Fifeshire, E.*) 681
Major Rasch (*Essex, Chelmsford*) 684

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 130 ; Noes, 225. (Division List No. 38.)

Original Question again proposed.

It being after midnight, and objection being taken to further proceeding, the Chairman proceeded to interrupt the business.

Whereupon Mr. A. J. Balfour rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put,"

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 220 ; Noes 117. (Division List No. 39.)

Original Question put accordingly :—The Chairman named the Tellers :—Ayes, Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther ; Noes, Mr. Yoxall and Mr. Broadhurst.

But several Members refused to leave the House to proceed to the Division Lobby. Whereupon the Chairman directed the doors to be unlocked in order to report the matter to the Speaker.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Chairman reported, That several Members, the hon. Member for South East Cork, North Kerry, South Tipperary, North Meath, North Leitrim, East Limerick, North East Cork, West Cavan, East Tyrone, South Fermanagh, East Cork, and West Cork, had refused to leave the House and proceed to the Division Lobby when directed to do so by him.

Mr. Speaker appealed to the hon. Members in the interests of the House not to persist in their refusal to obey the Chair.

But the said hon. Members having repeated their determination not to leave the House for the Division—

Mr. Speaker named Mr. Crean, Mr. Flavin, Mr. Cullinan, Mr. Patrick White, Mr. M'Hugh, Mr. Lundon, Mr. William Abraham, Mr. M'Govern, Mr. Doogan, Mr. Jordan, Captain Donelan, and Mr. Gilhooly as wilfully obstructing the Business in the House and disregarding the Authority of the Chair

Motion made, and Question put—

"That the said Members, Mr. Crean, Mr. Flavin, Mr. Cullinan, Mr. Patrick White, Mr. M'Hugh, Mr. Lundon, Mr. William Abraham, Mr. M'Govern, Mr. Doogan, Mr. Jordan, Captain Donelan, and Mr. Gilhooly, be suspended from the service of the House."—(*Mr. Balfour.*)

The House proceeded to a Division :—

Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther were appointed Tellers for the Ayes, but no Member being willing to act as Teller for the Noes, Mr. Speaker declared that the Ayes had it.

Mr. Speaker then directed the said Members to withdraw, but they refused to obey his order. Whereupon Mr. Speaker directed the Serjeant at-Arms to cause the said Members to be removed from the House, and they were removed accordingly.

The House again resolved itself into the Committee :—

(In the Committee.)

Original Question put, "That £17,304,000 be granted on account for the said services."

The Committee proceeded to a Division.

Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther were appointed Tellers for the Ayes, but no Member being willing to act as Teller for the Noes, the Chairman declared that the Ayes had it.

And, it being after Midnight, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Resolution to be reported this day ; Committee to sit again this day.

Adjourned at ten minutes after One o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: WEDNESDAY, 6TH MARCH, 1901.

Another Member took and subscribed the Oath.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Morton Carr Drainage Bill.—"For amending certain provisions in force with respect to the Morton Carr Drainage, in the county of Lincoln; and for other purposes," read the first time; to be read a second time 697

Aldershot Gas and Water Bill; Caledonian Railway Bill; Crawley Gas Bill; Dublin St. James' Gate Brewery Tramways Bill; Gateshead and District Tramways Bill; Gravesend Gas Bill; Great Northern Railway Bill; Horley District Gas Bill; Leatherhead Gas Bill; London, Tilbury, and Southend Railway Bill; South Metropolitan Gas Bill; Wells Water Bill; read a second time, and committed 697

PETITIONS.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (HIGHER GRADE AND EVENING CONTINUATION SCHOOLS).—Petitions for alteration of Law, from Bromley; Reading; Sunderland; Gravesend; Hebden Bridge; Halifax; Plymouth; Burslem; Holyhead; Normanby; and Ashton-under-Lyne; to lie upon the Table 697

POOR LAW OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1896.—Petitions for alteration of Law, from Levenshulme; Hammersmith; Coventry; and Barton Regis; to lie upon the Table 697

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN BILL.—Petitions in favour from Manchester; Doncaster; York; West Ham; Temperance Union of the Society of Friends; Glasgow (two); Greenock; Millom; and Driffield; to lie upon the Table 697

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petitions in favour, from Greenock; Ayr; and Fraserburgh; to lie upon the Table 698

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

QUEEN ANNE'S BOUNTY.—Copy presented, of Annual Reports and Accounts of the Governors for the year 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 698

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS (EXCESSES), 1899–1900.—Copy presented, of Statement of the Sum required to be voted in order to make good Excesses on certain Grants for the year ended on the 31st March, 1900 [by Command]; Referred to the Committee of Supply, and to be printed. [No. 77.] 698

SUSPENSION OF MEMBERS (5TH MARCH):—

Question: *Mr. John Redmond* (*Waterford*) 698
Ruling: *Mr. Speaker* 699
Question: *Mr. Dillon* (*Mayo, E.*) 700
Ruling: *Mr. Speaker* 700
The First Lord of the Treasury (*Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.*) 702
Mr. Dillon 703
Mr. John Redmond 704

Police Superannuation (Scotland) Bill [SECOND READING].—Order for Second Reading read.

Mr. John Wilson (Falkirk Burghs) .. 704
Mr. Dalziel (Kirkcaldy Burghs) .. 709

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Discussion :—

Mr. Caldwell (Lanarkshire, Mid) .. 710
Mr. Parker Smith (Lanarkshire, Partick) .. 719
Mr. John Dewar (Inverness-shire) .. 725
Sir Walter Thorburn (Peebles and Selkirk) .. 726
Mr. Thomas Shaw (Hawick Burghs) .. 727
The Lord Advocate (Mr. A. Graham Murray, Buteshire) .. 729
Sir Lewis M'Iver (Edinburgh, W.) .. 734
Mr. Renshaw (Renfrewshire, W.) .. 734
Mr. Wallace (Perth) .. 735
Mr. Wylie (Dumbartonshire) .. 735
Sir Robert Reid (Dumfries Burghs) .. 736
Mr. A. Graham Murray .. 736
Mr. Heywood Johnstone (Sussex, Horsham) .. 736
Mr. Alexander Cross (Glasgow, Camlachie) .. 737

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Mr. John Wilson .. 737
Mr. Caldwell .. 737

Bill committed to a Select Committee.

Compensation for Damage to Crops, etc., Bill [SECOND READING].—Order for Second Reading read.

Mr. Hudson (Hertfordshire, Hitchin) .. 737

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Discussion :—

Mr. Jeffreys (Hampshire, N.) .. 738
Mr. Munro Ferguson (Leith Burghs) .. 740
Mr. Spear (Devonshire, Tavistock) .. 742
Mr. Banbury (Camberwell, Peckham) .. 743
Mr. Stuart-Wortley (Sheffield, Hallam) .. 745
Mr. Griffith Boscawen (Kent, Tunbridge) .. 746
Sir E. Durning-Lawrence (Cornwall, Truro) .. 747
Mr. Bell (Derby) .. 747
Mr. Vicary Gibbs (Hertfordshire, St. Albans) .. 749
Mr. Corrie Grant (Warwickshire, Rugby) .. 749
Colonel Milward (Warwickshire, Stratford-upon-Avon) .. 751
Mr. Perks (Lincolnshire, Louth) .. 752
Mr. Bryce (Aberdeen, S.) .. 752
Sir John Stirling-Maxwell (Glasgow College) .. 753
Mr. Lawson Walton (Leeds, S.) .. 754
Mr. Jackson (Leeds, N.) .. 756
The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Gerald Balfour, Leeds Central) 758

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Mr. Jeffreys rose in his place and moved that " Question be now put."

Question, " That the Question be now put," put, and agreed to.

Question put accordingly, " That the Bill be now read a second time."

The House divided :—Ayes, 307 ; Noes, 80. (Division List No. 40.)

Bill read a second time, and committed for To-morrow.

University of Wales (Graduates).—Bill to extend the privileges of the Graduates of the University of Wales, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Brynmor Jones, Mr. Alfred Thomas, Mr. Humphreys-Owen, Mr. Kenyon, and Colonel Pryce-Jones. 763

University of Wales (Graduates) Bill.—" To extend the privileges of the Graduates of the University of Wales," presented accordingly, and read the first time ; to be read a second time upon Wednesday next, and to be printed. [Bill 88.] 763

Public Accounts Committee.—First Report brought up, and read ; report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 8.] 763

Public Petitions Committee.—First Report brought up and read ; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 763

Business of the House :—

Mr. A. J. Balfour 764

Adjourned at five minutes before Six of the Clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS: THURSDAY, 7th MARCH, 1901.

Took the Oath.—The Lord Forbes took the Oath.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The Lord Chancellor acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with :—Freshwater, Yarmouth, and Newport Railway [H.L.] ; Alfreton Gas [H.L.] ; Charing Cross, Euston, and Hampstead Railway (No. 1) [H.L.] ; Charing Cross, Euston, and Hampstead Railway (No. 2) [H.L.] ; Easton and Church Hope Railway [H.L.] ; Lynton and Barnstaple Railway [H.L.]. The same were ordered to lie on the Table 765

Bethlem Hospital Bill [H.L.] ; Bridewell Hospital Bill [H.L.] ; Christ's Hospital (London) Bill [H.L.] ; St. Bartholomew's Hospital Bill [H.L.]. Reports of His Majesty's Attorney General received, and ordered to lie on the Table 765

Standing Orders Committee.—Report from, That the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the following Bills ought to be dispensed with, and the Bills allowed to proceed :—Cowes Ferry [H.L.] ; Mersey Docks and Harbour Board (Canada Dock Works, etc.) [H.L.] ; Sutton-in-Ashfield Urban District (Water) [H.L.] ; Dover Gas [H.L.].

March 7.] *Page*

That the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the Birmingham City Tramways Bill [H.L.] ought to be dispensed with, and the Bill allowed to proceed, provided that the powers to construct Tramways Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 be struck out of the Bill unless the consent of the local and road authorities shall be proved before the Committee on the Bill.

That the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the Harrogate Corporation Bill [H.L.] ought to be dispensed with, and the Bill allowed to proceed, provided that Clause 7 be struck out of the Bill.

That the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the Brompton and Piccadilly Circus Railway (Extensions) Bill [H.L.] ought to be dispensed with, and the Bill allowed to proceed, provided that Railways Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 be struck out of the Bill.

That the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the Chester Corporation Tramways Bill [H.L.] ought to be dispensed with, and the Bill allowed to proceed, provided that Tramways Nos. 1, 2, and so much of Tramway No. 6 as lies beyond the city boundary, be struck out of the Bill.

That the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the South Western and Isle of Wight Junction Railway Bill [H.L.] ought to be dispensed with, and the Bill allowed to proceed, provided that Clauses 6, 11, 56, 57, 58, and 59 be struck out of the Bill.

That the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the Wigan Corporation Tramways Bill [H.L.] ought to be dispensed with, and the Bill allowed to proceed, provided that Tramway No. 2 be struck out of the Bill.

That the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the Tyneside Tramways and Tramroads Bill [H.L.] ought to be dispensed with, and the Bill allowed to proceed, provided that Tramway No. 3 be struck out of the Bill.

That the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the South Lancashire Tramways Bill [H.L.] ought to be dispensed with, and the Bill allowed to proceed, provided that Tramways Nos. 7 and 8 be struck out of the Bill.

Read, and agreed to 765

Bristol, Clifton, and West of England Zoological Society Bill [H.L.]; Weston-super-Mare Gas Bill [H.L.]; Wisbech Water Bill [H.L.]; Omagh Gas Bill [H.L.]; Royal Exchange Assurance Bill [H.L.]; Faversham Water Bill [H.L.]; Sheffield District Railway Bill [H.L.]; Cardiff Railway Bill [H.L.]; Nitrate Railways Company Bill [H.L.]. Read 1*a* .. 767

LONDON UNDERGROUND RAILWAYS.—Message from the Commons that they concur in the Resolution of this House, ordered to be communicated to them on Monday last on the subject of London Underground Railways as desired by this House 767

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC

CHINA, No. 2 (1901).—Despatch from His Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburg respecting the Russo-Chinese Agreement as to Manchuria 767

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QUEEN ANNE'S BOUNTY.—Annual Report and Accounts of the Governors for year ended 31st December, 1900 767

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP (PARTICULARS OF PIECE-WORK WAGES: PEN-MAKING).—Order made by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, dated 12th July, 1900, applying with modifications, the provisions of Section 40 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1895, to factories and workshops in which is carried on the making of pens. Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table 767

Public Libraries Bill [H.L.].—A Bill to amend the Acts relating to public libraries, museums, and gymnasiums, and to regulate the liability of managers of libraries to proceedings for libel—was presented by the Lord Windsor; read 1*a*; and to be printed. (No. 16.) 768

Cremation Bill [H.L.]—[SECOND READING].—Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

Lord Monkswell 768

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2*a*."—(*Lord Monkswell.*)

Lord Belper 769

On Question, agreed to. Bill read 2*a* accordingly, and committed to a Committee of the whole House on Monday next.

THE BRITISH POST OFFICE AT SALONIKA:—

Discussion:—

Lord Newton 769
The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (*The Marquess of Lansdowne*) 772
The Postmaster General (*The Marquess of Londonderry*).. 773

House adjourned at ten minutes before Five of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: THURSDAY, 7TH MARCH, 1901.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

City of London (Spitalfields Market) Bill (BY ORDER).—Order for Second Reading read.

Mr. Gray (*West Ham, N.*) 774
Mr. Lough (*Islington, W.*) 775

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed.

Dublin (Equalisation of Rates) Bill (By Order).—Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That the Bill be now read a second time."

The Chief Secretary for Ireland (*Mr. Wyndham, Dover*) 775

Mr. Harrington (*Dublin Harbour*) 776

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed.

London Riverside Fish Markets Bill (By Order).—Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That the Bill be now read a second time."

Mr. Lough 776

Mr. Gray 776

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time and committed.

Thames Lightermen Bill (By Order).—Order for Second Reading read.

Mr. Alban Gibbs (*London*) 777

Motion made and Question proposed—

"That the Bill be now read a second time."

The President of the Board of Trade (*Mr. Gerald Balfour, Leeds, Central*) 778

Mr. Sydney Buxton (*Tower Hamlets, Poplar*) 779

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Bill withdrawn.

Private Bills (Standing Order 63 Complied With).—Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order No. 63 has been complied with, viz. :—Metropolitan Electric Supply Bill. Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time 779

Dublin Corporation (Markets, etc.) Bill (By Order); London County Council (Spitalfields Markets) Bill (By Order); Shipley Improvement Bill (By Order). Read a second time, and committed 779

Paisley Gas Provisional Order.—Bill to confirm a Provisional Order under the Burgh Police (Scotland) Act, 1892, relating to Paisley, ordered to be brought in by The Lord Advocate and Mr. Solicitor General for Scotland.

Paisley Gas Provisional Order Bill.—"To confirm a Provisional Order under the Burgh Police (Scotland) Act, 1892, relating to Paisley," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 89.] 779

March 7.] *Page*

SELECTION OF MEMBERS FOR SERVICE ON PRIVATE BILL COMMITTEES—EQUAL TREATMENT :—

Mr. D. A. Thomas (Merthyr Tydvil) 780

Motion made and Question proposed—

"That it be an Instruction to the Committee that, in selecting Members to serve on Committees for the consideration of Private Bills, exemption shall not be granted to any Member on the ground of his private profession, business, or avocation, and all Members shall receive equal treatment and consideration."—(*Mr. D. A. Thomas.*)

Discussion :—

Mr. Halsey (Hertfordshire, Watford) 781
Mr. Flynn (Cork County, N.) 782
Captain Norton (Newington, W.) 782

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 130 ; Noes, 282. (Division List No. 41.)

LONDON UNDERGROUND RAILWAYS.—Lords Message [5th March], communicating a Resolution relative to the appointment of a Joint Committee on London Underground Railways, considered.

The Chairman of Ways and Means (Mr. J. W. Lowther, Cumberland, Penrith) 786

Motion made and Question proposed—

"That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Resolution."—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*)

Mr. John Burns (Battersea) 787
Mr. J. W. Lowther 787

Question put, and agreed to.

Message to the Lords to acquaint them therewith.—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*)

PETITIONS.

CHURCH DISCIPLINE.—Petition from Dorking, for alteration of Law ; to lie upon the Table 788

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (HIGHER GRADE AND EVENING CONTINUATION SCHOOLS). —Petition from Salford, for alteration of Law ; to lie upon the Table ..

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN BILL.—Petitions in favour, from Driffield ; Greenock (three) ; Ratcliffe ; Kirton-in-Lindsey ; Scotter ; Whiteinch ; Falkirk ; Cranstonhill ; and Lewisham ; to lie upon the Table 788

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petition from Blairgowrie, in favour ; to lie upon the Table 788

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS (PARTICULARS OF PIECE WORK WAGES) (PEN-MAKING).—Copy presented, of Order of the Secretary of State, dated 12th July, 1900, applying, with modifications, the provisions of Section 40 of the Factory and Workshops Act, 1895, to Factories and Workshops in which is carried on the making of Pens [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 788

GOLD COAST.—Copy presented, of Correspondence relating to the Ashanti War, 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.. 788

CHINA (NO. 2, 1900).—Copy presented, of Despatch from His Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburg respecting the Russo-Chinese Agreement as to Manchuria [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 788

COLONIAL REPORTS (ANNUAL).—Copy presented, of Report No. 317 (Jamaica, Report for 1899–1900) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 788

AGRICULTURAL RATES ACT, 1896.—Return ordered, "in the following form, showing for each Parish in the several Poor Law Unions situate wholly or for the most part within the counties of Carmarthen, Carnarvon, Dorset, Essex, Leicester, and Yorks (West Riding) the rateable value of Agricultural Land and other property, respectively, in the years 1896 and 1899; the amount of Poor Rates collected in the years ended the 25th day of March, 1896 and 1900; and the estimated proportion of such Rates collected in respect of Agricultural Land and other property:—

County, Poor Law Union and Parish.	Rateable Value on the 20th day of July, 1896.		Rateable Value on the 25th day of March, 1899.		Total amount of Poor Rates collected in the year ended Lady Day—		Estimated amount, based on Rateable Value, of Poor Rates collected in respect of Agricultural Land and other property, respectively.			
							Year 1895-6.		Year 1899-1900.	
	Agricultural Land.	Other property.	Agricultural Land.	Other property.	1896.	1900.	Agricultural Land (Rate at same amount as that in respect of other property).	Other property.	Agricultural Land (Rate at one-half of that in respect of other property).	Other property.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£

—(*Mr. Henry Hobhouse*) 788

QUESTIONS.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—NEGOTIATIONS WITH GENERAL BOTHA.—Question, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman (Stirling Burghs); Answer, The First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) 789

REVERSE AT HELVETIA.—Question, Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett (Sheffield, Ecclesall); Answer, The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford) 790

MILITIA OFFICERS—SENIORITY.—Question, Mr. Lawrence (Liverpool, Abercromby); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 790

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Courts-Martial.—Question, Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; Answer, Mr. Brodrick 791

Imperial Yeomanry Officers—Pay and Allowances.—Question, Mr. Seton-Karr (St. Helens); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 792

Irish Yeomanry Pay.—Questions, Mr. T. W. Russell (Tyrone, S.) and Mr. Patrick O'Brien (Kilkenny); Answers, The Financial Secretary to the War Office (Lord Stanley, Lancashire, Westhoughton) 792

Yeomanry Recruits—Accommodation at Aldershot.—Questions, Colonel Lockwood (Essex, Epping), Mr. James Lowther (Kent, Thanet), and Major Rasch (Essex, Chelmsford) 792

Rifle Ranges.—Question, Mr. Courtney Warner (Staffordshire, Lichfield); Answer, Lord Stanley 794

Salford Barracks.—Question, Mr. Lees Knowles (Salford, W.); Answer, Lord Stanley 794

West Indian Troops at St. Helena.—Question, Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 794

Ludgershall Barracks.—Question, Mr. Charles Hobhouse (Bristol, E.); Answer, Mr. Brodrick.. 796

Militia Pay.—Question, Mr. Freeman-Thomas (Hastings); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 796

Return—Navy (Fleets).—Question, Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean); Answer, The Civil Lord of the Admiralty (Mr. Pretyman, Suffolk, Woodbridge) 796

H.M.S. "Britannia."—Question, Mr. Eugene Wason (Clackmannan and Kinross); Answer, Mr. Pretyman 796

Royal Visit to the Colonies—The "Ophir"—Engine-Room Staff and Crew.—Question, Sir John Colomb (Great Yarmouth); Answer, Mr. Pretyman 797

Admiralty Coal Contracts.—Question, Mr. William Allan (Gateshead); Answer, Mr. Pretyman 798

Expenditure on New Construction.—Question, Sir John Colomb; Answer, Mr. Pretyman 798

Naval Ordnance Store Department.—Question, Commander Young (Berkshire, Wokingham); Answer, Mr. Pretyman 799

Indian Railway Stock.—Question, Mr. J. E. Gordon (Elgin and Nairn); Answer, The Secretary of State for India (Lord G. Hamilton, Middlesex, Ealing) 799

Cooper's Hill College.—Question, Mr. O'Mara (Kilkenny, S.); Answer, Lord G. Hamilton 800

Indian Famine Commission.—Question, Mr. Caine (Cornwall, Camborne); Answer, Lord G. Hamilton 801

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New Indian Province.—Question, Mr. Schwann (Manchester, N.); Answer, Lord G. Hamilton 802

Punjab Administration.—Question, Mr. Schwann; Answer, Lord G. Hamilton 803

China—Russia and Manchuria.—Question, Mr. Charles Hobhouse; Answer, The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Viscount Cranborne, (Rochester) 803

Crimean Loan of 1855.—Question, Mr. Bill (Staffordshire, Leek); Answer, Viscount Cranborne 804

Trade of Maceio and Pernambuco.—Question, Mr. Schwann; Answer, Viscount Cranborne 804

Lead Oxide in Earthenware Glaze.—Questions, Mr. Coghill (Stoke-upon-Trent); Answers, Viscount Cranborne and the Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Ritchie, Croydon) 804

Medical Witnesses' Expenses.—Question, Mr. Lawrence; Answer, Mr. Ritchie 805

Valuation Appeals.—Question, Mr. W. F. D. Smith (Strand, Westminster); Answer, Mr. Ritchie 805

New Police Buildings (Shepherdess Walk)—Rehousing of Persons Dispossessed.—Question, Mr. Hay (Shoreditch, Hoxton); Answer, Mr. Ritchie 806

Rehousing—Great Northern and City Railway.—Question, Mr. Hay; Answer, Mr. Ritchie 806

Rehousing—London and North Western Railway.—Question, Mr. Hay; Answer, Mr. Ritchie 807

Police Grievances.—Question, Mr. Louis Sinclair (Essex, Romford); Answer, Mr. Ritchie 808

Tea Lotteries.—Question, Mr. Thomas Dewar (Tower Hamlets, St. George's); Answer, Mr. Ritchie 808

Vaccination at Bethnal Green.—Question, Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggree (Bethnal Green, N.E.); Answers, Mr. Ritchie and the President of the Local Government Board (Mr. Long, Bristol, S.) 809

Food Adulteration Prosecutions—Mistakes by Public Analysts.—Question, Mr. Thomas Dewar; Answer, Mr. Walter Long 810

Unclaimed Moneys at the Bank of England.—Question, Mr. Heywood Johnstone (Sussex, Horsham); Answer, The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Sir M. Hicks Beach, Bristol, W.) 811

School Board Officials as Members of County Councils.—Question, Mr. Horner (Lambeth, N.); Answer, The Vice-President of the Board of Education (Sir J. Gorst, Cambridge University) 812

Foot and Mouth Disease.—Question, Mr. Tollemache (Cheshire, Eddisbury); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 812

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SWINE FEVER.—Question, Mr. George White (Norfolk, N.W.); Answer, Mr. Long 812

ELECTION PETITIONS.—Question, Mr. J. E. Gordon; Answer, The Attorney General (Sir Robert Finlay, Inverness Burghs) 813

ELECTRIC RAILWAY—SUPPOSED RISK TO ALBERT MEMORIAL, ETC.—Question, Sir Francis Powell (Wigan); Answer, The First Commissioner of Works (Mr. Akers Douglas, Kent, St. Augustine's) 813

INFERIOR CEYLON TEAS.—Question, Mr. Henry Hobhouse (Somersetshire, E.); Answer, The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Worcestershire, E.) 814

REGISTERED LETTERS—COMPENSATION.—Question, Mr. Thornton (Clapham); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 814

MANCHESTER TELEPHONE OPERATORS.—Question, Mr. Schwann; Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 815

POSTAL TELEGRAPH CLERKS' ASSOCIATION.—Question, Captain Norton (Newington, W.); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 816

INFECTIOUS DISEASE AT SOUTH UIST.—Question, Mr. John Dewar (Inverness); Answer, The Lord Advocate (Mr. A. Graham Murray, Buteshire).. .. 816

TREATMENT OF PAUPER CHILDREN IN IRELAND.—Question, Mr. Daly (Monaghan, N.); Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Wyndham, Dover) 817

ROSCOMMON SCHOOL TEACHERS' FEES.—Question, Mr. Hayden (Roscommon, S.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 818

LIVE STOCK IN COUNTY MONAGHAN.—Question, Mr. Daly; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 818

ULSTER WINTER ASSIZES.—Question, Mr. John Campbell (Armagh, S.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 819

LOUGH NEAGH.—Question, Mr. Samuel Young (Cavan, E.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 820

IRISH MAYORS AND THE COMMISSIONS OF ASSIZE.—Question, Mr. John Redmond mond (Waterford, W.); Answer, The Attorney General for Ireland (Mr. Atkinson, Londonderry, N.) 821

KILLARNEY LAKES.—Question, Mr. Murphy (Kerry, E.); Answer, Mr. Atkinson 822

ARMAGH MAGISTRACY.—Question, Mr. John Campbell; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 822

IRISH SCHOOL INSPECTORS.—Question, Mr. Thomas O'Donnell (Kerry, W.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 822

GLIN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL.—Question, Mr. O'Shaughnessy (Limerick, W.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 823

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Birr and Portumna Railway.—Question, Mr. Roche (Galway, E.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 823

Longford Spring Assizes.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell (Longford, N.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 824

United Irish League at Ballinalee.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 825

Tenancy of Irish Grazing Tracts.—Question, Dr. Ambrose (Mayo, W.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 825

Irish Language in Irish Schools.—Questions, Mr. Thomas O'Donnell and Mr. John Redmond; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 825

Dublin Postal Staff.—Question, Mr. Patrick O'Brien; Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 826

Irish Government Printing.—Question, Mr. Kennedy (Westmeath, N.); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 827

The Royal Declaration against Roman Catholicism.—Questions, Colonel Nolan and Mr. O'Shaughnessy; Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 828

The New Coinage.—Question, Mr. Brigg (Yorkshire, W.R., Keighley); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 829

Electoral Anomalies—Irish Representation.—Questions, Mr. Louis Sinclair and Mr. Flynn (Cork, County, N.); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour .. 829

Royal Visit to the Colonies—Suggested Visit to India.—Question, Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggree; Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 829

Business of the House.—Question, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman; Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 830

Suspension of Members (5th March)—Police in the House.—Question, Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.); Answer, Mr. Speaker 830

The Case of Mr. Jordan.—Mr. Speaker informed the House that he received a letter from the hon. Member for South Fermanagh (Mr. Jordan), which he read to the House.

Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.) 832
Colonel Nolan (Galway, N.) 833

Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That the Order of the House made on Tuesday, the 5th day of March, suspending twelve Members from the service of the House, be rescinded so far as it applies to Mr. Jordan."—(*Mr. Dillon.*)

The Chairman of Committees (Mr. J. W. Lowther, Cumberland, Penrith) 838
Mr. A. J. Balfour 840

Question put, and agreed to.

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SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE (EXEMPTION FROM THE STANDING ORDER).—Motion made, and Question put, "That the Proceedings on the Amendment of Standing Order No. 21, if under discussion at Twelve o'clock this night, be not interrupted under the Standing Order, Sittings of the House." —(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

The House divided :—Ayes, 304 ; Noes, 181. (Division List No. 42.)

NEW BILLS.

TROUT FISHING ANNUAL CLOSE TIME (SCOTLAND).—Bill to provide an Annual Close Time of Trout Fishing in Scotland, ordered to be brought in by The Lord Advocate, Mr. Solicitor General for Scotland and Mr. Anstruther.

Trout Fishing Annual Close Time (Scotland) Bill.—"To provide an Annual Close Time for Trout Fishing in Scotland," presented, and read the first time ; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 90.] 843

BURIAL GROUNDS (SCOTLAND) .—Bill for the better regulation of Burial Grounds in Scotland, ordered to be brought in by The Lord Advocate, Mr. Solicitor General for Scotland, and Mr. Anstruther.

Burial Grounds (Scotland) Bill.—"For the better regulation of Burial Grounds in Scotland," presented, and read the first time ; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 91.] 843

AMENDMENT OF STANDING ORDER NO. 21.—Standing Order No. 21 read.

Mr. A. J. Balfour 845

Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That Standing Order No. 21 be amended by inserting after line 27, the words, 'Provided also, That if any Member, or Members acting jointly, who have been suspended under this Order from the service of the House, shall refuse to obey the direction of the Speaker, the Speaker shall call the attention of the House to the fact that recourse to force is necessary in order to compel obedience to his direction, and the Member or Members who have refused to obey his direction shall thereupon, and without further Question put, be suspended from the service of the House during the remainder of the session."—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in Standing Order No. 21."

Discussion :—

Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman (*Stirling Burghs*) 848
Mr. John Redmond (*Waterford*) 853
Mr. A. J. Balfour 862
Mr. John Ellis (*Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe*) 868
Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett (*Sheffield, Ecclesall*) 872
Mr. Broadhurst (*Leicester*) 873
Mr. Markham (*Nottinghamshire, Mansfield*) 877

Attention called to the fact that forty Members were not present. House counted, and forty Members being found present—

Mr. T. W. Russell (*Tyrone, S.*) 879
Mr. Dillon (*Mayo, E.*) 882

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Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—
"In line 1, to leave out the words 'or Members acting jointly.'"
—(*Mr. Dillon.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the proposed Amendment."

Discussion :—

The Attorney General (Sir Robert Finlay, Inverness Burghs) 893
Mr. Harrington (Dublin, Harbour) 893
Mr. Lough (Islington, W.) 894
Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 895
Mr. Blake (Longford, S.) 895
Mr. Lloyd-George (Carnarvon Boroughs) 896
Sir Henry Fowler (Wolverhampton, E.) 897
Mr. Cripps (Lancashire, Stretford) 898
Mr. Flynn (Cork, N.) 898
Mr. Dalziel (Kirkcaldy Burghs) 899
Mr. A. J. Balfour 900
Mr. Bryce (Aberdeen, S.) 902
Mr. Tully (Leitrim, S.) 902
Mr. Duke (Plymouth) 903
Mr. Harwood (Bolton) 904
Mr. Kimber (Wandsworth) 904
Mr. Wallace (Perth) 905
Mr. A. J. Balfour 905
Mr. Channing (Northamptonshire, E.) 905

Amendment to the proposed Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—
"In the third line after the word 'Speaker' that occurs first, to insert the following words, 'when severaly summoned under the Speaker's Orders by the Serjeant-at-Arms to obey such direction."—(*Sir Robert Finlay.*)

Amendment to the proposed Amendment agreed to.

Mr. Blake 906
Mr. Dillon 907

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment, as amended—
"In line 6, to leave out from the word 'thereupon' to the end of the proposed Amendment, as amended, in order to add the words, 'be suspended from the service of the House for such period as the House may determine."—(*Mr. Dillon.*)

Question proposed—
"That the words 'and without further Question put' stand part of the proposed Amendment, as amended."

Mr. A. J. Balfour 908
Mr. Blake 909
Mr. Stuart Wortley (Sheffield, Hallam) 909
Mr. Vicary Gibbs (Hertfordshire, St. Albans) 910

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 413; Noes, 79. (Division List No. 43.)

Lord Hugh Cecil (Greenwich) 915

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Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

"In line 6, after the word 'put,' to insert the words 'shall be committed to prison until the further order of the House, and shall'"—(*Lord Hugh Cecil.*)

Question proposed—

"That those words be there inserted in the proposed Amendment, as amended."

Mr. A. J. Balfour .. 919
Mr. Atherley-Jones (*Durham, N.W.*) .. 923
Mr. William Redmond (*Clare, E.*) .. 925
Colonel Nolan (*Louth, S.*) .. 928
Mr. Lloyd-George .. 928
Mr. T. P. O'Connor (*Liverpool, Scotland*) .. 933

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, nil; Noes, 426. (Division List No. 44.)

Mr. Labouchere (*Northampton*) .. 939

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment, as amended—

"In line 7, to leave out the words 'during the remainder of the session,' in order to add the words 'for two months.'"—(*Mr. Labouchere.*)

Question proposed—

"That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the proposed Amendment, as amended."

Mr. A. J. Balfour .. 943
Mr. T. P. O'Connor .. 943
Mr. Pirie (*Aberdeen, N.*) .. 944
Mr. Caine (*Cornwall, Camborne*) .. 944

Motion made and Question proposed—

"That the debate be now adjourned."—(*Mr. Caine.*)

Mr. Lough .. 946
Mr. Broadhurst .. 946
Mr. O'Mara (*Kilkenny, S.*) .. 947
Mr. Tully (*Leitrim, S.*) .. 948
Mr. Sydney Buxton (*Tower Hamlets, Poplar*) .. 949
Mr. Dalziel .. 949
Mr. John Redmond .. 950
Sir John Brunner (*Cheshire, Northwich*) .. 950
Mr. A. J. Balfour .. 951
Mr. Lloyd-George .. 952
Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman .. 952
Mr. Power (*Waterford, E.*) .. 954
Mr. Black (*Banffshire*) .. 955
Dr. Ambrose (*Mayo, W.*) .. 955
Mr. Flynn .. 956
Mr. Boland (*Kerry, S.*) .. 957
Mr. H. J. Wilson (*Yorkshire, W.R., Holmfirth*) .. 957
Mr. Thomas O'Donnell (*Kerry, W.*) .. 958
Mr. Nannetti (*Dublin, College Green*) .. 959
Mr. Joyce (*Limerick*) .. 960
Mr. Keir Hardie (*Merthyr Tydvil*) .. 961

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Mr. Duffy (Galway, S.) 963
Mr. Murphy (Kerry, E.) 964
Mr. William Redmond 965
Mr. Jordan (Fermanagh, S.) 966
Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 968
Mr. Lambton (Durham, S.E.) 969
Mr. J. P. Farrell (Longford, N.) 969

Question put, " That the Question be now put."

The House divided :—Ayes, 233 ; Noes, 117. (Division List No. 45.)

Question put accordingly, " That the Debate be now adjourned."

The House divided :—Ayes, 119 ; Noes, 231. (Division List No. 46.)

Amendment again proposed—
" In line 7, to leave out the words ' during the remainder of the session,' and add the words ' for two months.' "

Question again proposed—
" That the words ' during the remainder of the session ' stand part of the proposed Amendment, as amended."

Mr. J. P. Farrell 977
Mr. Tully 980

Mr. A. J. Balfour rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, " That the Question be now put."

The House divided :—Ayes, 219 ; Noes, 105. (Division List No. 47.)

Question put accordingly, " That the words ' during the remainder of the session ' stand part of the proposed Amendment, as amended."

The House divided :—Ayes, 224 ; Noes, 97. (Division List No. 48.)

Mr. A. J. Balfour claimed, " That the Main Question be now put."

Main Question put accordingly, " That the Amendment, as amended, be there inserted in Standing Order No. 21."

The House divided :—Ayes, 264 ; Noes, 51. (Division List No. 49.)

Ordered, That if any Member, or Members acting jointly, who have been suspended under this Order from the service of the House, shall refuse to obey the direction of the Speaker, when severally summoned under the Speaker's orders by the Serjeant-at-Arms to obey such direction, the Speaker shall call the attention of the House to the fact that recourse to force is necessary in order to compel obedience to his direction, and the Member or Members named by him as having refused to obey his direction shall thereupon, and without further Question put, be suspended from the service of the House during the remainder of the session.

Compensation for Damage to Crops, etc., Bill.—Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Clause 1.

Committee report Progress ; to sit again upon Wednesday, 19th June .. 992

Adjourned at twenty minutes before Six of the clock, a.m.

HOUSE OF LORDS: FRIDAY, 8TH MARCH, 1901.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The Lord Chancellor acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with :—Milford Docks [H.L.]; Harpenden District Gas [H.L.]; Cork, Blackrock, and Passage Railway [H.L.]; Otley Gas [H.L.].

Also the Certificate that no Standing Orders are applicable to the following Bill: —Berwickshire County Town [H.L.].

The same were ordered to lie on the Table 993

Arlesey Gas Bill [H.L.]; Belfast Harbour Bill [H.L.]; Folkestone Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Henry Diaper and Company (Delivery Warrants) Bill [H.L.]; Oakham Water Bill [H.L.]. Committed 993

Aspatria, Silloth, and District Water Bill [H.L.]; Barrow-in-Furness Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Bolton Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Bournemouth Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Bristol Corporation Cemetery Bill [H.L.]; Bristol Corporation (Docks and Railways, Etc.) Bill [H.L.]; Broadstairs and St. Peter's Water and Improvement Bill [H.L.]; Chesterfield Improvement Bill [H.L.]; Dover Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Dover Harbour Bill [H.L.]; Handsworth Urban District Council Bill [H.L.]; Harrogate Water Bill [H.L.]; Heywood and Middleton Water Board Bill [H.L.]; Islington and Euston Railway Bill [H.L.]; King's Norton and Northfield Urban District Tramways Bill [H.L.]; Leeds Corporation (General Powers) Bill] [H.L.]; Leeds Corporation Water Bill [H.L.]; Llanelly Harbour Bill [H.L.]; Manchester and Liverpool Electric Express Railway Bill [H.L.]; Manchester Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Mersey Docks and Harbour Board Bill [H.L.]; North-East London Railway Bill [H.L.]; Piccadilly and City Railway Bill [H.L.]; Poulton-le-Flyde Gas Bill [H.L.]; Prestatyn Water Bill [H.L.]; Ripon Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Rugby Water and Improvement Bill [H.L.]; Salford Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Sheffield Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Shields Bridge Bill [H.L.]; Smethwick Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Southport Water (Transfer) Bill [H.L.]; Stockport Corporation Water Bill [H.L.]; Stratton and Bude Improvement Bill [H.L.]; Warkworth Harbour Bill [H.L.]. Committed. The Committees to be proposed by the Committee of Selection 993

Elland Gas Bill [H.L.]; Albion Steam Coal Company Bill [H.L.]; Freshwater, Yarmouth, and Newport Railway Bill [H.L.]. Read 2ª 994

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TRADE REPORTS.—Annual Series, No. 2,559. Italy (Finances for the year 1900–1901) 995

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.—Annual Reports of proceedings for the year 1900, under the Tithe Acts, the Copyhold Act, 1894, the Inclosure Acts, the Metropolitan Commons Acts, the Drainage and Improvement of Land Acts, the Universities and College Estates Acts, 1858–1898, the Glebe Lands Act, 1888, etc., etc.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table 995

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MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS IN RECEIPT OF PUBLIC MONEY.—Return showing the names of present Members of the House of Lords who are in receipt of public money from any public source, whether in the form of salary, pay, pension, or allowance of any kind, or who have received commutation in respect thereof under the Commutation Acts; the amount they receive or have commuted, with the amount of the commutation money; and the name of the office or nature of the service for which the money is or has been paid: Ordered to be laid before the House.—(*The Lord Monkswell*) 995

PETITION.

EDUCATION.—Petition for amendment of the regulations with regard to Higher Grade Schools, and the law with regard to Evening Continuation Schools; of the School Board for the county borough of Ipswich; read, and ordered to lie on the Table 995

THE HOUSING PROBLEM—GOVERNMENT POLICY:—

Discussion:—
The Earl of Portsmouth 995
The Marquess of Northampton 1007
The Prime Minister and Lord Privy Seal (*The Marquess of Salisbury*) 1011
Lord Tweedmouth 1016

House adjourned at half-past Six of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: FRIDAY, 8TH MARCH, 1901.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS (STANDING ORDER 62 COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order No. 62 has been complied with, viz.:—West Surrey Water Bill. Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time 1023

British Gas Light Company Bill; Taff Vale Railway Bill; Tendring Hundred Water Bill. Read a second time, and committed 1024

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).—Mr. Halsey reported from the Committee of Selection, That, in pursuance of the provisions of the Private Legislature Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, they had selected the following Fifteen Members to form the Parliamentary Panel of Members of this House to act as Commissioners:—Mr. Channing, Mr. Colville, Sir Charles Dalrymple, Mr. J. E. Gordon, Mr. Charles Hobhouse, Mr. Alfred Hutton, Mr. Brynmor Jones, Sir John Kinloch, Mr. A. K. Loyd, Mr. Macartney, Mr. Pym, Mr. Renshaw, Mr. A. H. Smith, Sir Walter Thorburn, and Mr. Eugene Wason 1024

PETITIONS.

BEER BILL.—Petitions in favour, from Bassetlaw; Bewdley; and Welbeck; to lie upon the Table 1024

CHURCH DISCIPLINE.—Petition from Wolverhampton, for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table 1024

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ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (HIGHER GRADE AND EVENING CONTINUATION SCHOOLS).—Petitions for alteration of Law, from Swansea; Blackpool; and Glusburn; to lie upon the Table 1024

PARLIAMENT (KING'S DECLARATION).—Petition from Clackmannan, for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table 1024

POOR LAW OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1896.—Petitions for alteration of Law, from Macclesfield; and Sheerness and Minster; to lie upon the Table 1024

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY BILL.—Petitions in favour, from Reigate; and Bideford; to lie upon the Table 1025

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN BILL.—Petitions in favour, from Aberdeen (three); York (two); Largs; Carlisle (four); Plymouth; Stepney Green; Brixton; Durham; Bridlington; Bideford; and Greenock; to lie upon the Table 1025

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petitions in favour, from Greenock; Gourock (five); Ashton; and Johnstone; to lie upon the Table 1025

BRITISH MUSEUM.—Petition of the Trustees of the British Museum (King's Recommendation signified), for grant in aid; referred to the Committee of Supply 1025

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

UNFUNDED DEBT.—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 5th March; *Sir Edgar Vincent*]; to lie upon the Table 1025

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.—Copy presented, of Annual Report of Proceedings under the Tithe Acts, Copyhold Act, 1894, Inclosure Acts, and other Acts for the year 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1025

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).—Copy presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, No. 2559 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1025

NAVY (WATER-TUBE BOILERS) (COMMITTEE).—Copy presented, of Interim Report of the Committee appointed by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to consider certain questions respecting modern Boilers for Naval purposes [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1025

REVENUE (COLLECTION OF TAXES).—Return ordered, "showing for each of the three Kingdoms (1) the amount charged for Income Tax, Land Tax, and Inhabited House Duty for the financial years 1898, 1899, and 1900; and (2) the amounts and percentage of same collected in each country by the 31st day of January and the 28th day of February, respectively, in each of the said years."—(*Mr. M'Crae*) 1025

BRITISH MUSEUM.—Return ordered, "of Account of the Income and Expenditure of the British Museum (Special Trust Funds) for the year ending the 31st day of March, 1901; and Return of the number of Persons admitted to visit the Museum and the British Museum (Natural History) in each year from 1895 to 1900, both years inclusive; together with a Statement of the progress made in the arrangement and description of the Collections, and an account of Objects added to them in the year 1900."—(*Mr. John Morley.*) 1026

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QUESTIONS.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—NUMBER OF BOER PRISONERS.—Question, Captain Bagot (Wetsmoreland, Kendal); Answer, The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford) 1026

CAMPS OF CONCENTRATION—Question, Mr. John Ellis (Nottinghmashire, Rushcliffe); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 1026

CIVIL APPOINTMENTS IN THE TRANSVAAL.—Question, Mr. John Ellis; Answer, Mr. Brodrick 1027

ST. JOHN AMBULANCE BRIGADE—WAR GRATUITIES.—Question, Sir Frederick Milner (Nottinghamshire, Bassetlaw); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 1027

SOLDIERS' UNCLAIMED BALANCES.—Question, Mr. Kearley (Devonport); Answer, The Financial Secretary to the War Office (Lord Stanley, Lancashire, Westhoughton) 1028

SOLDIERS' KITS—LOSSES ON ACTIVE SERVICE.—Question, Mr. Mansfield (Lincolnshire, Spalding); Answer, Lord Stanley 1028

PROVISION FOR INVALIDED SOLDIERS.—Question. Mr. Levy (Leicestershire, Loughborough); Answer, Lord Stanley 1029

WAR OFFICE MESSENGERS.—Question, Captain Norton (Newington, W.) Answer, Lord Stanley 1029

CHINA EXPEDITION—PAY OF OFFICERS.—Question, Mr. Agg-Gardner; Answer, Mr. Brodrick 1030

ILLEGAL TRAWLING—REPORTS BY COASTGUARDMEN.—Question, Mr. Cathcart Wason (Orkney and Shetland); Answer, The Civil Lord of the Admiralty (Mr. Pretyman, Suffolk, Woodbridge) 1030

UNIVERSITY COLLEGES AND STATE GRANTS.—Questions, Sir Francis Powell (Wigan) and Mr. Palmer (Salisbury); Answer, The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Sir M. Hicks Beach, Bristol, W.) 1031

THE NEW COINAGE.—Question, Mr. Evelyn Cecil (Aston Manor); Answer, Sir M. Hicks Beach 1031

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS—INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT.—Question, Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean); Answer, The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Ritchie, Croydon) 1032

FATALITY AT HOOTON'S FACTORY, NOTTINGHAM.—Question, Mr. Tennant (Berwickshire); Answer, Mr. Ritchie 1032

METROPOLITAN POLICE AT DEVONPORT DOCKYARD.—Question, Mr. Kearley; Answer, Mr. Ritchie 1033

PURE BEER.—Question, Mr. Alfred Davies (Carmarthen Boroughs); Answer, The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Gerald Balfour, Leeds, Central) 1033

EVENING SCHOOL CODE LIMIT.—Question, Mr. Whitley (Halifax); Answer, The Vice-President of the Board of Education (Sir John Gorst, Cambridge University) 1033

VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM—DUKE OF SAXE-COBURG'S COLLECTION.—Question, Sir Manchergee Bhownaggree (Bethnal Green, N.E.); Answer, Sir J. Gorst 1034

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LLANELLY CROWN LANDS—BELGIAN ENTERPRISE.—Question, Mr. Alfred Davies; Answer, The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Worcestershire, E.) 1034

LONDON AND PARIS MAIL.—Question, Captain Norton; Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1035

IRELAND—CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD.—Question, Mr. John O'Donnell (Mayo, S.); Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Wyndham, Dover) 1036

POLICE MALPRACTICES AT MULLOUGH.—Question, Major Jameson (Clare, W.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1036

TRACTION ENGINE TRAFFIC ON BALLYMENA ROAD.—Question, Mr. Samuel Young (Cavan, E.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1037

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL FINANCE.—Question, Mr. Cogan (Wicklow, E.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1038

LABOURERS' COTTAGES IN CASHEL UNION.—Question, Mr. Kendal O'Brien (Tipperary, Mid); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1039

IRISH NATIONAL SCHOOL REQUISITES.—Question, Mr. Thomas O'Donnell (Kerry, W.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1039

IRISH EMIGRATION.—Questions, Mr. John O'Donnell and Mr. John Redmond (Waterford); Answers, Mr. Wyndham 1040

SHILLELAGH UNION—CHARGES AGAINST NURSE JOYCE.—Question, Mr. James O'Connor (Wicklow, W.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1040

CHARGES AGAINST DR. BOLSTER.—Question, Mr. James O'Connor; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1041

GORTIN MAGISTERIAL BENCH.—Question, Mr. Hemphill (Tyrone, N.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1042

HORSE BREEDING IN COUNTY CORK.—Question, Mr. Flynn (Cork, N.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1043

CLOGHERHEAD POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS.—Question, Mr. Nolan (Louth, S.); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1043

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (IRELAND) RETURNS.—Question, Mr. Archdale (Fermanagh, N.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1043

MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL—CREDIT BALANCES.—Question, Mr. Kennedy (Westmeath, N.); Answer, Sir M. Hicks Beach 1044

CLONES POST OFFICE—STAFF ACCOMMODATION.—Question, Mr. Daly (Monaghan, S.); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1045

MEDICAL ATTENDANCE FOR THE CLONES POSTAL STAFF.—Question, Mr. Daly; Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1045

IRISH LANGUAGE IN THE POST OFFICE.—Question, Mr. Thomas O'Donnell; Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1046

LONDON BILLS IN PARLIAMENT—OPPOSITION BY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCILS.—Question, Mr. Boulnois (Marylebone, E.); Answer, The President of the Local Government Board (Mr. Walter Long, Bristol, S.) .. 1046

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE—ARMY AND NAVY VOTES.—Question, General Laurie (Pembroke and Haverfordwest); Answer, The First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) 1046

VOTE ON ACCOUNT.—Question, Mr. Caldwell (Lanarkshire, Mid); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1047

DIVISION REGULATIONS.—Questions, Mr. Plummer (Newcastle-on-Tyne), Mr. Edmund Robertson (Dundee), Mr. Lough (Islington, W.), and Mr. Caldwell; Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour and Mr. Speaker 1047

POINT OF PRACTICE—CAPTAIN DONELAN'S SUSPENSION (5TH MARCH)—EFFECT OF SUSPENSION ON MEMBERS PRIORITY FOR MOTIONS AND BILLS.—Questions, Mr. Dillon and Mr. John Redmond; Ruling, Mr. Speaker 1048

STANDING COMMITTEES:—

Mr. Halsey reported from the Committee of Selection, That they had nominated the following Members to serve on the Standing Committee for the consideration of all Bills relating to Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping, and Manufacture:—Mr. Attorney General, Mr. Baird, Mr. Baldwin, Mr. Gerald Balfour, Mr. Beckett, Mr. Boland, Mr. Broadhurst, Mr. John Burns, Mr. Burt, Sir Charles Cayzer, Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Channing, Mr. Cohen, Mr. Jesse Collings, Sir John Colomb, Mr. Cremer, Mr. Crombie, Sir Charles Dalrymple, Mr. Daly, Sir Frederick Dixon-Hartland, Mr. Doughty, Mr. J. P. Farrell, Sir Robert Penrose-FitzGerald, Sir Fortescue Flannery, Sir Henry Fowler, Mr. Galloway, Mr. Harrington, Sir Alfred Hickman, Mr. Brodie Hoare, Sir William Hornby, Sir William Houldsworth, Major Jameson, Mr. Jeffreys, Sir James Joicey, Mr. Kemp, Mr. Lambert, Sir Elliott Lees, Mr. Lloyd-George, Colonel Long, Mr. Walter Long, Dr. MacDonnell, Mr. Macartney, Mr. Mather, Mr. Charles Morley, Mr. Oldroyd, Mr. Parkes, Mr. Pike Pease, Colonel Pilkington, Sir James Rankin, Mr. Renshaw, Sir Albert Rollit, Mr. Round, Mr. T. W. Russell, Mr. Stuart Samuel, Mr. Seton-Karr, Mr. Thomas Shaw, Sir Barrington Simeon, Mr. Samuel Smith, Mr. Strachey, Mr. Tennant, Mr. Tomlinson, Mr. Tully, Mr. George Whiteley, Sir Frederick Wills, Mr. John Wilson (Durham), Mr. John Wilson (Falkirk), Mr. Wolff, and Mr. Samuel Young.

Mr Halsey further reported from the Committee of Selection, That they had nominated the following Members to serve on the Standing Committee for the consideration of all Bills relating to Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure which may, by Order of the House, be committed to such Standing Committee:—The Lord Advocate, Mr. Asquith, Mr. Atherley-Jones, Mr. Atkinson, Mr. Barlow, Mr. Bartley, Mr. Beach, Mr. Butcher, Mr. Carew, Lord Hugh Cecil, Mr. Clancy, Mr. Coghill, Mr. Cripps, Sir Savile Crossley, Mr. Bromley-Davenport, Sir Charles Dilke, Mr. Dillon, Mr. Tatton Egerton, Mr. Arthur Elliot, Mr. Samuel Evans, Mr. Faber, Sir George Fardell, Mr. Flynn, Mr. Vicary Gibbs, Sir Frederick Godson, Mr. Goulding, Mr. Graham, Mr. H. D. Greene, Mr. Haldane, Mr. Harwood, Mr. T. M. Healy, Mr. James Heath, Mr. Helder, Mr. Hemphill, Mr. Henry Hobhouse, Mr. Jacoby, Mr. Brynmor Jones, Mr. Jordan, Mr. Lees Knowles, Mr. W. F. Lawrence, Sir Joseph Leese, Mr. Loder, Mr. A. K. Loyd, Mr. Lyttelton, Dr. Macnamara, Mr. MacNeill, Sir Henry Meysey-Thompson, Colonel Milward, Mr. Arthur Morton, Mr. Lloyd Morgan, Captain Norton, Sir Francis Powell, Colonel Pryce-Jones, Sir Robert

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Reid, Mr. Rentoul, Mr. Secretary Ritchie, Mr. Bryn Roberts, Mr. Parker Smith, Mr. Soames, Mr. Solicitor General, Mr. Ernest Spencer, Mr. Stevenson, Sir Benjamin Stone, Mr. Ure, Sir Howard Vincent, Mr. Robert Wallace, Mr. Warr, and Sir James Woodhouse.

Reports to lie upon the Table 1050

NEW BILL.

BURIAL PLACES (EXEMPTION FROM RATES) (SCOTLAND).—Bill to amend the Rating Exemptions (Scotland) Act, 1874, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Shaw-Stewart, Sir John Stirling-Maxwell, Mr. Colvile, Sir Lewis M'Iver, and Mr. Eugene Wason.

Burial Places (Exemption from Rates) (Scotland) Bill.—"To amend the Rating Exemptions (Scotland) Act, 1874," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Thursday next, and to be printed. [Bill 92.] 1051

SUPPLY (ARMY ESTIMATES).—Order for Committee read.

The Secretary of State for War (*Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford*) .. 1052

Motion made and Question proposed—

"That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair."—(*Mr. Brodrick.*)

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Resolved, That this House will immediately resolve itself into the Committee of Supply.—(*Mr. Balfour.*)

Considered in Committee.

[MR. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

ARMY (SUPPLEMENTARY) ESTIMATES, 1900–1901.

1. Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £3,000,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for additional expenditure, due to the War in South Africa, in respect of the following Army Services, viz.; Vote 6. Transport and Remounts, £2,000,000; Vote 7. Provisions, Forage, and other Supplies, £1,000,000—Total, £3,000,000."

Discussion:—

Sir Arthur Hayter (*Walsall*) 1092
Colonel Nolan (*Galway, N.*) 1093
Mr. Fuller (*Wiltshire, Westbury*) 1094
Mr. Kearley (*Devonport*) 1095
Mr. Bartley (*Islington, N.*) 1095
Mr. Cochrane (*Ayrshire, N.*) 1096
Captain Norton (*Newington, W.*) 1097
Mr. Ratcliff (*Staffordshire, Burton*) 1099
Sir Walter Foster (*Derbyshire, Ilkeston*) 1101
The Financial Secretary to the War Office (*Lord Stanley, Lancashire, Westhoughton*) 1102
Sir Charles Dilke (*Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean*) 1107
Major Rasch (*Essex, Chelmsford*) 1109
Mr. J. P. Farrell (*Longford, N.*) 1111

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Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett (*Sheffield, Ecclesall*) 1113

Attention called to the fact that forty Members were not present. House counted, and forty Members being present—

Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett 1113
Mr. Tully (*Leitrim, S.*) 1116
Sir J. Blundell Maple (*Camberwell, Dulwich*) 1118
Mr. Charles Hobhouse (*Bristol, E.*) 1119
Major Bagot (*Westmorland, Kendal*) 1121
Mr. Dillon (*Mayo, E.*) 1123

Motion made and Question proposed—

"That a reduced sum, not exceeding £2,000,000, be granted for the said Service."—(*Mr. Dillon.*)

Discussion :—

Lord Stanley 1127
Mr. Courtney Warner (*Staffordshire, Lichfield*) 1129
Mr. Labouchere (*Northampton*) 1130
Mr. Charles Hobhouse 1130
Mr. John Burns (*Battersea*) 1131
Lord Stanley 1132

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 41 ; Noes, 185. (Division List No. 50.)

Original Question again proposed.

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 184 ; Noes, 38. (Division List No. 51.)

2. £100, Supplementary, Ordnance Factories.

Mr. A. J. Balfour 1135

Resolution agreed to.

Resolutions to be reported upon Monday next ; Committee to sit again upon Monday next.

Motion made and Question, "That this House do now adjourn"—(*Mr. Balfour*)—put, and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at half after Eleven of the clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS: MONDAY, 11TH MARCH, 1901.

LORD HENLEY.—Petition of Frederic Henley, Baron Henley of Chardstock, in the Peerage of Ireland, claiming a right to vote at the elections of Representative Peers for Ireland ; read, and referred to the Lord Chancellor to consider and report thereupon to the House 1137

The Lord Gerard took the Oath 1137

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The Lord Chancellor acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with : —Brompton and Piccadilly Circus Railway [H.L.]. The same were ordered to lie on the Table 1137

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Standing Orders Committee.—Report from, That the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the Cambrian Railways Bill ought to be dispensed with.

That the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the South Yorkshire Electric Power Bill ought to be dispensed with, provided that the proposed exemption of the undertaking from the provisions of Section 81 of the Electric Lighting (Clauses) Act, 1899, be struck out of the Bill.

Read, and agreed to 1137

Harrogate Water Bill [H.L.].—A petition of Messrs. Sharpe, Parker, Pritchards, Barham, and Lawford, of 9, Bridge Street, Westminster, parliamentary agents, praying for leave to present a petition of Leeds Corporation, praying to be heard by counsel against the Bill, although the time limited by Standing Order No. 92 for presenting such petition has expired; read, and ordered to lie on the Table; and Standing Order No. 92 to be considered To-morrow, in order to its being dispensed with in respect of the said petition 1137

Otley Gas Bill [H.L.]; Cowes Ferry Bill [H.L.]; Harrogate Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Mersey Docks and Harbour Board (Canada Dock Works, Etc.) Bill [H.L.]; Sutton-in-Ashfield Urban District (Water) Bill [H.L.]; Tyneside Tramways and Tramroads Bill; Chester Corporation Tramways Bill [H.L.]; Alfreton Gas Bill [H.L.]; Charing Cross, Euston, and Hampstead Railway (No. 1.) Bill [H.L.]; Charing Cross, Euston, and Hampstead Railway (No. 2.) Bill [H.L.]; Easton and Church Hope Railway Bill [H.L.]; Lynton and Barnstaple Railway Bill [H.L.]; Brompton and Piccadilly Circus Railway Bill [H.L.]; South Western and Isle of Wight Junction Railway Bill [H.L.]; Dover Gas Bill [H.L.]; Birmingham (City) Tramways Bill [H.L.]; Wigan Corporation Tramways, Etc., Bill [H.L.].—Read 2*a* 1138

Doncaster Tithe Trust Bill [H.L.].—Read 2^a (according to Order) .. 1138

Portmadoc, Beddgelert, and South Snowdon Railway Bill [H.L.]; Stratton and Bude Gas Bill [H.L.].—Committed; the Committees to be proposed by the Committee of Selection 1138

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

Education (Scotland).—Code of Regulations for Day Schools, 1901 .. 1139

Navy (Water-Tube Boilers).—Interim Report of the Committee appointed by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to consider certain questions respecting modern types of boilers for naval purposes 1139

Explosives (Explosion at Messrs. Curtis and Harvey's Factory at Trimley Marsh, Suffolk).—Report to the Secretary of State for the Home Department, by Captain M. B. Lloyd, His Majesty's Inspector of Explosives, on the circumstances attending explosions which occurred in the mixing house and stove at the factory of Curtis and Harvey, Limited, at Trimley Marsh, Suffolk, on the 28th November, 1900 1139

Army (Yeomanry Cavalry).—Training Return for 1900 1139

Patents Acts.—Report of the Committee appointed by the Board of Trade to inquire into the working of the Patents Acts on certain specified questions 1139

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table

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LUNACY.—Return of all sums received by the Visitors of Lunatics for travelling expenses or upon any other account from the 1st January to the 31st December, 1900 1139

POLLING DISTRICTS (COUNTY BOROUGH OF BRIGHTON).—Orders made by the Council of the County Borough of Brighton on 4th June, 1896, 19th January, 1899, and 21st January, 1901, altering certain polling districts in the borough 1139

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—HOSPITAL TENTS AND WAGONS.—Question, Lord Tweedmouth; Answer, The Under Secretary of State for War (Lord Raglan) 1140

LORD WOLSELEY'S MEMORANDUM TO LORD SALISBURY.—Question, The Earl of Northbrook; Answer, The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (The Marquess of Lansdowne) 1140

NEW BILLS.

County Courts (Ireland) Bill [H.L.].—A Bill to amend the law relating to county courts in Ireland—was presented by the Lord Ashbourne; read 1*a*; to be printed; and to be read 2*a* on Friday next. (No. 17.) .. 1141

Oath Against Roman Catholic Doctrines Repeal Bill [H.L.].—A Bill to repeal the Oath against Roman Catholic doctrines—was presented by the Lord Braye; read 1*a*; and to be printed. (No. 18) 1141

Shops (Early Closing) Bill [H.L.].—A Bill to provide for the earlier closing shops—was presented by the Lord Avebury; read 1*a*; and to be printed. (No. 19.) 1141

MESSAGE FROM THE KING.—His Majesty's message considered (according to Order). Then it was moved that an humble address be presented to His Majesty to return to His Majesty the thanks of this House for His most gracious message, and to assure His Majesty that this House will immediately proceed to the consideration thereof in such a manner as shall demonstrate their zeal, duty, and affectionate attachment to His Majesty, and a due regard to the rank and dignity of the Queen and the Royal Family (The Lord Privy Seal (*M. Salisbury*); the same was agreed to *nemine dissentiente*; the said Address to be presented to His Majesty by the Lords with white staves 1141

Cremation Bill [H.L.].—House in Committee (according to Order). Bill reported without amendment.

Lord Monkswell 1141
The Lord Chancellor (*The Earl of Halsbury*) 1141

Standing Committee negatived; Bill to be read 3*a* To-morrow.

PRIVATE LEGISLATION PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1899.—Report from the Committee of Selection, That the following Lords be proposed to the House as the panel of Lords to act as Commissioners under the Act, viz:—E. Mansfield, E. Camperdown, L. Clifford of Chudleigh, L. Torphichen, L. Belhaven and Stenton, L. Fairlie (*E. Glasgow*). The said Report to be considered To-morrow 1142

House adjourned at twenty minutes before Five of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: MONDAY, 11TH MARCH, 1901.

One other Member took and subscribed the Oath.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Swansea Harbour Bill (BY ORDER).—Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed—
"That the Bill be now read a second time."

Mr. Charles M'Arthur (Liverpool, Exchange) 1142
Sir George Newnes (Swansea) 1144

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed.

PRIVATE BILLS (STANDING ORDER 62 COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order No. 62 has been complied with, viz.:—Cambrian Railways Bill; Llandrindod Wells Water Bill; Richmond Gas Bill; Stroud Gas Bill. Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time 1145

Bexley Tramways Bill; Burgess Hill Water Bill; Devonport Gas and Coke Bill; Glasgow and Renfrew District Railway Transfer Bill; North British Railway Bill; South Yorkshire Electric Power Bill; read a second time, and committed 1145

DRAINAGE AND IMPROVEMENT OF LANDS (IRELAND) PROVISIONAL ORDER.—Bill to confirm a Provisional Order under the Drainage and Improvement of Lands (Ireland) Act, 1863, and the Acts amending the same, relating to the Triogue Drainage District, in Queen's County, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Austen Chamberlain and Mr. Attorney General for Ireland 1145

Drainage and Improvement of Lands (Ireland) Provisional Order Bill.—"To confirm a Provisional Order under the Drainage and Improvement of Lands (Ireland) Act, 1863, and the Acts amending the same, relating to the Triogue Drainage District, in Queen's County," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 93.] 1145

PETITIONS.

BEER BILL.—Petition from Isle of Wight, in favour; to lie upon the Table .. 1145

BOROUGH FUNDS ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.—Petition from Falkirk, against; to lie upon the Table 1146

CHURCH DISCIPLINE.—Petitions for alteration of Law, from Meopham; and Bideford; to lie upon the Table 1146

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (HIGHER GRADE AND EVENING CONTINUATION SCHOOLS).—Petitions for alteration of Law, from Ryde; Aston; and Royton; to lie upon the Table 1146

PARLIAMENTARY FRANCHISE.—Petition from Bristol, for extension to Women; to lie upon the Table 1146

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POOR LAW OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1896.—Petition for alteration of Law, from Whitby; and Strood; to lie upon the Table 1146

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN BILL.—Petitions in favour, from Glasgow (four); Govan; Manchester; Aberdeen (two); Dumbarton; Burnley; Carlisle (two); West Kent; Cumwinton; Largs; Poulton; Malton; Hawick; London; Southampton; Llandillo (four); Selkirk; Lander (two); and York; to lie upon the Table 1146

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petitions in favour, from Larkhall; Perth; Aberchirder; Buckie; Peebles; Charlestown of Aberlour; Tillicoultry; Ardrossan; Arbroath; Port Glasgow (three); and Glasgow (two), to lie upon the Table 1146

WORKMEN'S HOUSES TENURE BILL.—Petition from Falkirk, against; to lie upon the Table 1146

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

UNFUNDED DEBT.—Return [presented 8th March] to be printed. [No. 79.] 1146

EXPLOSIONS (MESSRS. CURTIS AND HARVEY'S FACTORY AT TRIMLEY MARSH, SUFFOLK).—Copy presented, of Report by Captain M. B. Lloyd, R.A., Her late Majesty's Inspector of Explosives, to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Home Department, on the circumstances attending Explosions which occurred at the Mixing House and Store at the Factory of Messrs. Curtis and Harvey, Limited, at Trimley, Suffolk, on the 28th November, 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1147

POLLING DISTRICTS (COUNTY BOROUGH OF BRIGHTON).—Copies presented, of Orders made by the Council of the County Borough of Brighton on the 4th June, 1896, the 19th January, 1899, and the 21st February, 1901, altering certain Polling Districts in the Borough [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 1147

NAVAL WORKS ACTS, 1896, 1896, 1897, AND 1899.—Account presented, showing the amount of money issued out of the Consolidated Fund; the amount and nature of the Securities created in respect thereof; the amount of the surplus of Income over Expenditure for the financial year ended 31st March, 1896, and the amount of Money expended in pursuance of the Acts during the year ended the 31st March, 1900; together with the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 80] 1147

BIRTHS, DEATHS, MARRIAGES, AND VACCINATION (SCOTLAND).—Copy presented, of the Forty-sixth Annual Report on the Births, Deaths, and Marriages in Scotland for 1900, and Thirty-fifth Annual Report on Vaccination [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1147

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND) (CODE, 1901).—Copy presented, of Code of Regulations for Day Schools, 1901, with Appendices [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1147

PATENT ACTS.—Copy presented, of Report of the Committee appointed by the Board of Trade to inquire into the working of the Patent Acts on certain specified suggestions [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1147

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).—Copy presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, No. 2560 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1148

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PHARMACY ACTS (IRELAND).—Copy presented, of Order in Council, dated 7th March, 1901, approving of a Regulation made by the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 1148

PAPER LAID UPON THE TABLE BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE.—Lunacy.—Copy of Return of all sums received by the Visitors of Lunatics for travelling expenses, or upon any other account, from 1st January to 31st December, 1900 [by Act]. 1148

COLONIAL LOANS ACT, 1899.—Copy ordered, "of Statement showing to what Colonies up to the present time sums have been advanced by the Treasury under the Colonial Loans Act, 1899, and for what purposes, to what amounts, and at what rates of interest; also the date on which each such Loan was sanctioned, and the date fixed for its repayment."—(*Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) 1148

DEATHS FROM STARVATION OR ACCELERATED BY PRIVATION (LONDON).—Address for "Return of the number of all deaths in the Administrative County of London, in the year 1900, upon which a coroner's jury has returned a verdict of death from starvation, or death accelerated by privation; together with any observations furnished to the Local Government Board by Boards of Guardians with reference to cases included in the Return (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 345, of Session 1900."—(*Mr. Talbot.*) 1148

ST. CROSS HOSPITAL, WINCHESTER.—Copy ordered, "of Correspondence with the Charity Commissioners with reference to the new scheme for the administration of St. Cross Hospital, Winchester."—(*Sir Walter Foster.*) .. 1148

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.—Copy ordered, "of Handbook to the Reports from the Committee of Public Accounts, Vol. III. (1893 to 1900), with Index comprehending the three Vols. (1857 to 1900)."—(*Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*)

Copy presented accordingly; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 81.] 1148

QUESTIONS.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—MONEY GRANT TO EARL ROBERTS.—Question, Mr. Thomas Shaw (Hawick Burghs); Answer, The First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) 1149

VALUE OF CHARTERED COMPANY'S LANDS.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell (Longford, N.); Answer, The Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. J. Chamberlain, Birmingham, W.) 1149

NEWSPAPER LIBELS ON BRITISH OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS.—Question, Mr. Pirie (Aberdeen, N.); Answer, The Attorney General (Sir Robert Finlay, Inverness Burghs) 1150

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT SERVING IN SOUTH AFRICA.—Question, Mr. Tully (Leitrim, S.); Answer, The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford) 1150

RETURN OF VOLUNTEERS FROM THE FRONT.—Question, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty); Answer, The Financial Secretary to the War Office (Lord Stanley, Lancashire, Westhoughton) 1151

COST OF ANIMAL TRANSPORT TO SOUTH AFRICA.—Question, Mr. Charles Hobhouse (Bristol, E.); Answer, Lord Stanley 1151

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SOLDIERS' UNCLAIMED BALANCES.—Question, Mr. Kearley (Devonport); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 1151

DECEASED SOLDIERS' ESTATES.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell; Answer, Lord Stanley 1152

PURCHASE OF FIELD GUNS FROM GERMANY.—Qustion, Major Rasch (Essex, Chelmsford); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 1152

DISCHARGES FROM THE ARMY.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Lord Stanley .. 1152

AGE CERTIFICATES FOR RECRUITS.—Question, Mr. Pirie; Answer, Lord Stanley 1153

PIMLICO CLOTHING DEPARTMENT—MASTER TAILOR CUTTERS.—Question, Mr. Field (Dublin, St. Patrick); Answer, Lord Stanley 1153

NEW NAVAL COLLEGE AT DEVONPORT.—Question, Mr. Norman (Wolverhampton, S.); Answer, The Secretary to the Admiralty (Mr. Arnold Forster, Belfast, W.) 1154

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHAPLAINS FOR THE NAVY.—Question, Mr. Joyce (Limerick); Answer, Mr. Arnold Forster 1154

TIME EXPIRED MEN-OF-WAR'S MEN ON THE CHINA STATION.—Question, Mr. Keir Hardie (Merthyr Tydvil); Answer, Mr. Arnold Forster 1154

WOOLWICH ARSENAL—LABOURERS' WAGES.—Questions, Mr. Arthur Morton (Deptford) and Captain Norton (Newington, W.); Answer, The Civil Lord of the Admiralty (Mr. Pretyman, Suffolk, Woodbridge) 1155

CHINA—LOOTING AT PEKING AND TIENTSIN.—Questions, Mr. Edmund Robertson (Dundee) and Mr. Tully; Answers, The Secretary of State for India (Lord G. Hamilton, Middlesex, Ealing) 1155

CAPE-AUSTRALIAN CABLE.—Question, Sir Edward Sassoon (Hythe); Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain 1157

CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT—ARRANGEMENTS FOR REBUILDING.—Questions, Mr. Thomas Dewar (Tower Hamlets, St. George's), Dr. Farquharson (Aberdeenshire, W.), and Sir Joseph Dimsdale (London); Answers, The Under Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Jesse Collings, Birmingham, Bordesley) 1158

HYDE PARK—RAILING AND LIGHTING.—Question, Colonel Legge (St. George's, Hanover Square); Answer, The First Commissioner of Works (Mr. Akers Douglas, Kent, St. Augustine's) 1158

LONDON BOROUGH COUNCILS—TRIENNIAL ELECTIONS.—Question, Captain Jessel (St. Pancras, S.); Answer, The President of the Local Government Board (Mr. Walter Long, Bristol, W.) 1159

VACCINATION STATISTICS.—Questions, Mr. Bartley (Islington, N.) and Sir Walter Foster (Derbyshire, Ilkeston); Answers, Mr. Walter Long 1160

BEER ADULTERATION.—Question, Mr. Alfred Davies (Carmarthen Boroughs); Answer, The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Sir M. Hicks Beach, Bristol, W.) 1160

EDUCATION—ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS CURRICULA.—Question, Dr. Macnamara (Camberwell, N.); Answer, The Vice-President of the Board of Education (Sir J. Gorst, Cambridge University) 1160

NEW DUSTON SCHOOL.—Question, Mr. Robert Spencer (Northamptonshire, Mid); Answer, Sir J. Gorst 1161

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EDUCATION CODE—RURAL SCHOOLS.—Questions, Sir W. Hart Dyke (Kent, Dartford) and Dr. Macnamara; Answers, Sir J. Gorst 1162

CIVIL SERVICE—UNESTABLISHED WORK AND PENSIONS.—Question, Mr. Yoxall (Nottingham, W.); Answer, The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Worcestershire, E.) 1162

CIVIL SERVICE APPOINTMENTS.—Question, Colonel Legge; Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1162

CHEAP TEAS.—Question, Mr. Henry Hobhouse (Somersetshire, N.); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1163

ISSUE OF NEW POSTAGE STAMPS.—Question, Mr. Henniker Heaton (Canterbury); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1164

POSTAL ORDER COUNTERFOILS.—Question, Mr. Henniker Heaton; Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1164

EXAMINING OFFICERS OF CUSTOMS.—Question, Mr. O'Malley (Galway, Connemara); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1165

LERWICK POST OFFICE.—Question, Mr. Cathcart Wason (Orkney and Shetland); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1165

CONVEYANCE OF STORNOWAY MAILS.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1166

ILLEGAL TRAWLING OFF ABERDEEN.—Question, Mr. Pirie; Answer, The Lord Advocate (Mr. A. Graham Murray, Buteshire) 1166

SCOTTISH FISHERY RETURNS.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. A. Graham Murray 1166

IRISH LAND COURT SALES.—Questions, Mr. Macartney (Antrim, S.) and Mr. Flynn (Cork, N.); Answers, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Wyndham, Dover) 1167

BANN DRAINAGE BILL.—Question, Mr. Macartney; Answer, Mr. Wyndham .. 1167

ENNIS DISTRICT LUNATIC ASYLUM FINANCE.—Question, Mr. John Redmond (Waterford); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1168

SEA FISHING—MANUAL OF IRISH STATUTES.—Question, Mr. Patrick O'Brien (Kilkenny); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1168

KILFEE BURIAL GROUND, COUNTY WICKLOW.—Question, Mr. Cogan (Wicklow, E.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1168

CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD—FISH CURING INDUSTRY.—Question, Mr. Flynn; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1169

DOUGLAS (IRELAND) NATIONAL SCHOOL.—Question, Mr. Thomas O'Donnell (Kerry, W.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1169

ROXBORO ROAD SCHOOL, LIMERICK.—Question, Mr. Joyce; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1170

PARSONSTOWN AND PORTUMNA RAILWAY.—Question, Mr. Roche (Galway, E.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1170

UNITED IRISH LEAGUE MEETING AT BALLINALEE.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1171

Dublin City Hospital for Diseases of the Skin.—Question, Mr. John Campbell (Armagh, S.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1172

Newtownstewart (Tyrone) Police Barracks.—Question, Mr. Hemphill (Tyrone, N.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1173

Newtonstewart Police Force (Constitution).—Question, Mr. Hemphill; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1173

Shillelagh Union Inquiries.—Questions, Mr. James O'Connor (Wicklow, W.) and Mr. T. W. Russell (Tyrone, S.); Answers, Mr. Wyndham 1174

South Leitrim Union.—Question, Mr. Tully; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1174

Workmen's Houses at Boyle.—Question, Mr. Tully; Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1175

Government Contracts in Ireland—Fair Wage Clause.—Question, Mr. Nannetti (Dublin, College Green); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain .. 1175

Registration of Patents in Ireland.—Question, Mr. Mooney (Dublin County, S.); Answer, The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Gerald Balfour, Leeds, Central) 1176

London County Council—Housing Schemes.—Question, Dr. Macnamara; Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1177

Swiss Military System.—Question, Mr. Yerburgh (Chester); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1177

Business of the House.—Questions, Mr. Lough (Islington, W.), Mr. T. W. Russell, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman (Stirling Burghs), Sir James Joicey (Durham, Chester-le-Street), Mr. James Lowther (Kent, Thanet), Sir John Colomb (Great Yarmouth), Mr. John Redmond (Waterford), Mr. Tully, Mr. Courtenay Warner (Staffordshire, Lichfield), and Mr. Dalziel (Kirkcaldy Burghs); Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1177

East India Loan (Great Indian Peninsula Railway Debentures).—Committee to consider of authorising the Secretary of State in Council of India to raise money in the United Kingdom for paying off or redeeming Debentures of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company on the Security of the Revenues of India (King's Recommendation signified), To-morrow.—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*).. 1180

Civil List.—Copy presented, of Accounts and Estimates relating to the Civil List [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

Paragraph in the King's Speech respecting the Civil List at the opening of Parliament, and His Majesty's Message of the fifth day of this instant March, read as follows:—

"*Gentlemen of the House of Commons,*

"The demise of the Crown renders it necessary that a renewed provision shall be made for the Civil List. I place unreservedly at your disposal those hereditary revenues which were so placed by my predecessor; and I have commanded that the Papers necessary for a full consideration of the subject shall be laid before you."

"Edward R.

"His Majesty being desirous of making competent provision for the honourable support and maintenance of His Son, the Duke of

Cornwall and York, His Daughter-in-law, the Duchess of Cornwall and York, and His Daughters, the Princess Louise, Duchess of Fife, the Princess Victoria, and Princess Charles of Denmark, and being further desirous that similar provision should be made for Her Majesty the Queen in the event of Her surviving Him, and for the Duchess of Cornwall and York in the event of Her surviving the Duke of Cornwall and York, recommends the consideration thereof to His Majesty's faithful Commons, and relies on their attachment to adopt such measures as may be suitable to the occasion."

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Sir M. Hicks Beach, Bristol, W.) 1181

Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That a Select Committee be appointed to consider so much of His Majesty's Speech to both Houses at the opening of Parliament as relates to the Civil List and His Majesty's Most Gracious Message of the 5th March relating to Grants to Her Majesty the Queen and Members of His Majesty's Family."—(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.*)

Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman (Stirling Burghs) 1186
Mr. John Redmond (Waterford) 1186
The First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) 1187
Mr. Keir Hardie (Merthyr Tydvil) 1188

Amendment proposed—

"At the end of the Question, to add the words 'and to prepare a Report for presentation to this House showing in detail every item of expenditure from public funds towards the support and maintenance of the Royal Family.'"—(*Mr. Keir Hardie.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there added."

Sir M. Hicks Beach 1190
Mr. Keir Hardie 1190

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Original Question put, and agreed to.

Ordered, That a Select Committee be appointed to consider so much of His Majesty's Speech to both Houses at the opening of Parliament as relates to the Civil List, and His Majesty's Most Gracious Message of the 5th March relating to Grants to Her Majesty the Queen and Members of His Majesty's Family.

Ordered, That the several Papers prepared this day relating to the Civil List be referred to the Committee.

Ordered, That the Committee do consist of Twenty-one Members.

Motion made and Question proposed—

"That Mr. A. J. Balfour be a Member of the said Committee."

Mr. William Redmond (Clare, E.) 1191
Mr. Dalziel (Kirkcaldy Burghs) 1191
Mr. A. J. Balfour 1192
Mr. Tennant (Berwickshire) 1192
Mr. Brynmor Jones (Swansea Districts) 1192

Question put, and agreed to.

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Motion made, and Question—
"That Mr. Bartley, Sir John Brunner, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir Frederick Dixon-Hartland, Sir William Hart-Dyke, Sir Henry Fowler, Sir William Harcourt be other Members of the said Committee," put, and agreed to.

Motion made, and Question proposed—
"That Sir Samuel Hoare be one other Member of the said Committee."

Mr. Dalziel 1194

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 300; Noes, 25. (Division List No. 52.)

Ordered, That Mr. Jackson be one other Member of the Committee.

Motion made, and Question proposed—
"That Sir James Kitson be one other Member of the Committee."
—(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.*)

Mr. Keir Hardie 1197

The House divided:—Ayes, 307; Noes, 17. (Division List No. 53.)

Ordered, That Mr. Labouchere, Mr. Macartney, Mr. M'Kenna, Mr. Mildmay, Mr. Renshaw, Mr. W. F. D. Smith, Mr. Stevenson, Mr. Warr, and Mr. Wharton be other Members of the Committee.

Ordered, That Five be the quorum.—(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.*)

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE (REPORTS OF MONEY COMMITTEES):—
Mr. A. J. Balfour 1201

Motion made and Question proposed—
"That the Proceedings on the Reports of the Committees of Supply and Ways and Means and other Committees authorising the expenditure of public money may be entered upon at any hour though opposed, and shall not be interrupted under the provisions of any Standing Order regulating the Sittings of the House, except of Standing Order No. 5."
—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

Mr. John Ellis (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe) 1201
Dr. Farquharson (Aberdeenshire, W.) 1203

Amendment proposed—
"After the first word 'That' to insert the words 'until Easter.'"
—(*Mr. John Ellis.*)

Question proposed—
"That the words 'until Easter' be there inserted."

Discussion:—
Mr. James Lowther (Kent, Thanet) 1203
Mr. T. M. Healy (Louth, N.) 1204
Mr. Gibson Bowles (Lynn Regis) 1205
Mr. Blake (Longford, S.) 1207

Question put.

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The House divided :—Ayes, 151 ; Noes, 254. (Division List No. 54.)

Mr. Blake 1211
Mr. Labouchere (*Northampton*) 1211
Mr. Lloyd-George (*Carnarvon Boroughs*) 1212

Amendment proposed—

"In line 3, to leave out the words 'and other Commitees authorising the expenditure of public money.' "—(*Mr. Labouchere.*)

Question proposed—

"That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

Mr. A. J. Balfour 1213
Mr. Flynn (*Cork, N.*) 1214
Mr. Bartley (*Islington, N.*) 1215
Mr. Dalziel 1215
Mr. T. P. O'Connor (*Liverpool, Scotland*) 1216
Mr. Jordan (*Fermanagh, S.*) 1218

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 253 ; Noes, 161. (Division List No. 55.)

Mr. Tully (*Leitrim, S.*) 1221

Amendment proposed—

"In line 3, to insert, after the word 'Money,' the words 'excepting the Report of Supply of 5th March.' "—(*Mr. Tully.*)

Question proposed—

"That those words be there inserted."

Sir William Harcourt (*Monmouthshire*, W.) 1222
Mr. A. J. Balfour 1223
Mr. T. M. Healy 1226
Mr. Lough (*Islington*, W.) 1227
Mr. John Redmond 1227
Mr. Asquith (*Fifeshire, E.*) 1228
Mr. J. P. Farrell (*Longford, N.*) 1229
Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett (*Sheffield, Ecclesall*) 1230
Mr. Power (*Waterford, E.*) 1232

Question put, "That those words be there inserted."

The House divided :—Ayes, 107 ; Noes, 189. (Division List No. 56.)

Main Question again proposed.

Mr. A. J. Balfour rose in his place and claimed to move, "That the Main Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Main Question be now put."

The House divided :—Ayes, 193 ; Noes, 103. (Division List No. 57.)

Main Question put accordingly.

The House divided :—Ayes, 190 ; Noes, 103. (Division List No. 58.)

Ordered, That the Proceedings on the Reports of the Committees of Supply and Ways and Means and other Committees authorising the expenditure of Public Money may be entered upon at any hour though opposed, and shall not be interrupted under the provision of any Standing Order regulating the Sittings of the House, except of Standing Order No. 5.

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SUPPLY—ARMY ESTIMATES.—Order for Committee read.

Motion made, and Question proposed—
"That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair."—(*Mr. Brodrick.*)
Major Rasch (*Essex, Chelmsford*) 1241
Mr. Trevelyan (*Yorkshire, W.R., Elland*) 1246
Mr. *Charles Douglas* (*Lanarkshire, N.W.*) 1250
Mr. Gretton (*Derbyshire, S.*) 1264

Amendment proposed—
"To leave out from the word 'That,' to the end of Question, in order to add the words 'in the opinion of this House, the public interest requires that a complete and immediate inquiry be made into all the circumstances connected with the removal from his command at Gibraltar of Major General Sir Henry Colvile, K.C.M.G., C.B.,' instead thereof."—(*Mr. Charles Douglas.*)

Question proposed—
"That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."
The Secretary of State for War (*Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford*) 1265

It being midnight, the debate stood adjourned.

Debate to be resumed to-morrow.

SUPPLY [4TH MARCH].—Resolutions reported :—

NAVY (SUPPLEMENTARY) ESTIMATES, 1900–1901.

1. "That an additional number of men and boys, not exceeding 600, be employed for the Sea and Coast Guard Services for the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901."
2. "That an additional sum, not exceeding £1,250,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for additional Expenditure on the following Navy Services, viz. :—

	£
Vote 1. Wages, etc., of Officers, etc.	500
Vote 2. Victualling and Clothing for the Navy	84,000
Vote 8. Shipbuilding, Repairs, Maintenance, etc. :	
Section I. Personnel	98,500
Section II. Matériel	630,000
Section III. Contract Work	207,000
Vote 11. Miscellaneous Effective Services ..	230,000
Total	£1,250,000."

1276

Resolutions agreed to.

Adjourned at five minutes after Twelve of the clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS: TUESDAY, 12TH MARCH, 1901.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Watford and District Tramways Bill [H.L.].—Examiner's Certificates of non-compliance with the Standing Orders referred to the Standing Orders Committee on Tuesday next 1277

Piccadilly and City Railway Bill [H.L.].—A petition of Messrs. Banter and Company, of 12, Victoria Street, Westminster, parliamentary agents, praying for leave to present a petition of the Reverend John Fenwick Kitto, praying to be heard by counsel against the Bill, although the time limited by Standing Order No. 92 for presenting such petition has expired ; read, and ordered to lie on the Table ; and Standing Order No. 92 to be considered on Thursday next, in order to its being dispensed with in respect of the said petition 1277

Milford Docks Bill [H.L.] ; Harpenden District Gas Bill [H.L.]. Read 2*a* .. 1277

Harrogate Water Bill [H.L.].—Standing Order No. 92 considered (according to order), and dispensed with with respect to a Petition of Leeds Corporation. Leave given to present the said petition 1277

Aire and Calder Navigation Bill [H.L.] ; Central London Railway Bill [H.L.] ; Chester Gas Bill [H.L.] ; City and Brixton Railway Bill [H.L.] ; City and South London Railway Bill [H.L.] ; Llanelly and Mynydd Mawr Railway Bill [H.L.] ; London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway Bill [H.L.] ; Newport (Isle of Wight) Gas Bill [H.L.] ; South Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railway Bill [H.L.] ; South Essex Water Bill [H.L.]. Committed. The Committees to be proposed by the Committee of Selection 1277

Bath Gas Light and Coke Bill [H.L.] ; Newcastle-upon-Tyne and Gateshead Gas Bill [H.L.] ; New Swindon Gas Bill [H.L.] ; Shrewsbury Gas Bill [H.L.]. Committed 1278

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

GOLD COAST.—Correspondence relating to the Ashanti War, 1900 1278

COLONIES (ANNUAL).—No. 317. Jamaica, Report for 1899–1900 1278

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).—No. 2560, Spain (1899) 1278

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS, AND VACCINATION (SCOTLAND).—Forty-sixth Annual Report by the Registrar General in Scotland, for the year 1900 ; and Thirty-sixth Annual Report on Vaccination 1278

ARMY.—Correspondence relative to the recall of Lieut.-General Sir H. E. Colvile, K.C.M.G., C.B.
Presented (by command), and ordered to lie on the Table 1278

PIERS AND HARBOUR ACTS (PROVISIONAL ORDERS, SESSION 1901).—Report by the Board of Trade of their proceedings under the General Pier and Harbour Act, 1861, and the General Pier and Harbour Act, 1861, Amendment Act 1278

PHARMACY (IRELAND) ACTS, 1875 and 1890.—Order in Council, dated 7th March, 1901, approving of a regulation made by the Pharmaceutical Society. Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table 1278

Berwickshire County Town Bill.—Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.
The Secretary for Scotland (*Lord Balfour of Burleigh*) 1279
Moved, "That the Bill be read a second time."—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

On Question agreed to; Bill read 2*a* accordingly, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Tuesday next.

Cremation Bill [H.L.].—Read 3*a* (according to order); an Amendment (privilege) made; Bill passed, and sent to the Commons 1279

PRIVATE LEGISLATION PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1899.—Report from the Committee of Selection proposing that the Lords following form the Parliamentary panel of Members of this House to act as Commissioners under the Act, viz.:—E. Mansfield, E. Camperdown, L. Clifford of Chudleigh, L. Torpichen, L. Belhaven and Stenton, L. Fairlie (*E. Glasgow*). Considered (according to order) and agreed to 1279

House adjourned at twenty-five minutes before Five of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: TUESDAY, 12TH MARCH, 1901.

Another Member made and subscribed the Affirmation required by law.

PRIVATE BILLS (STANDING ORDER 63 COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order No. 63 has been complied with, namely: Golborne Gas Bill. Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time 1280

Wolverhampton Corporation Water Bill. (BY ORDER.)—Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed—
"That the Bill be now read a second time."
Mr. Alexander Brown (*Shropshire, Wellington*) 1280

Amendment proposed—
"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day six months.'"—(*Mr. Alexander Hargreaves Brown.*)

Question proposed—
"That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

Discussion:—
Mr. Stanley Leighton (*Shropshire, Oswestry*) 1284
Sir Henry Fowler (*Wolverhampton, E.*) 1286
Colonel Kenyon-Slaney (*Shropshire, Newport*) 1290
The Secretary of State for the Colonies (*Mr. J. Chamberlain, Birmingham, W.*) 1301
Sir Alfred Hickman (*Wolverhampton, W.*) 1304

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 154; Noes, 239. (Division List No. 59.)

Words added.

Main Question, as amended, put and agreed to.

Second Reading put off for six months.

Blackpool Improvement Bill. (BY ORDER.)—Order for Second Reading read.

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Motion made and Question proposed—
"That the Bill be now read a second time."
Mr. Jeffreys (*Hampshire, N.*) 1311

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed.

Great Eastern Railway Bill. (BY ORDER.)—Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed—
"That the Bill be now read a second time."
Mr. Bell (*Derby*) 1311
Mr. Markham (*Nottinghamshire, Ruschliffe*) 1318

Amendment proposed—
"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day six months.'"—(*Mr. Bell.*)

Question proposed—
"That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

Discussion :—
Mr. Penn (*Lewisham*) 1318
Mr. Sydney Buxton (*Tower Hamlets, Poplar*) 1318
Mr. Keir Hardie (*Merthyr Tydvil*) 1319
Mr. Bartley (*Islington, N.*) 1320
Mr. Fenwick (*Northumberland, Wansbeck*) 1321
Colonel Bowles (*Middlesex, Enfield*) 1321
Mr. Field (*Dublin, St. Patrick*) 1321
Mr. Yoxall (*Nottingham, W.*) 1321
Mr. Nannetti (*Dublin, College Green*) 1321
Sir William Harcourt (*Monmouthshire, W.*) 1322
Mr. Joyce (*Limerick*) 1322
Mr. Bryce (*Aberdeen, S.*) 1322
Mr. Gray (*West Ham, N.*) 1323
Mr. Asquith (*Fifeshire, E.*) 1323

Debate adjourned; to be resumed upon Thursday.

STANDING ORDERS.—Resolutions reported from the Committee :—

1. "That, in the case of the Cowes Ferry Bill [Lords], the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with :—That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill."

2. "That, in the case of the London, Tilbury, and Southend Railway Bill, Petition for additional Provision, the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with :—That the parties be permitted to introduce their additional Provision, if the Committee on the Bill think fit."

3. "That, in the case of the Birmingham (City) Tramways Bill [Lords], the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with :—That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill, provided that the powers to construct Tramways Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 be struck out of the Bill, unless the consent of the local and road authorities shall be proved before the Committee on the Bill :—That the Committee on the Bill do report how far such Order has been complied with."

4. "That, in the case of the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board (Canada Dock Works, etc.) Bill [Lords], the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with :—That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill.

provided that the power to enable the promoting Board to purchase 500 acres of land for future dock development be struck out of the Bill :—That the Committee on the Bill do report how far such Order has been complied with."

5. "That, in the case of the Tyneside Tramways and Tramroads Bill [Lords], the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with :—That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill, provided that Tramway No. 3 be struck out of the Bill :—That the Committee on the Bill do report how far such Order has been complied with."

6. "That, in the case of the Harrogate Corporation Bill [Lords], the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with :—That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill, provided that Clause 7 be struck out of the Bill :—That the Committee on the Bill do report how far such Order has been complied with."

7. "That, in the case of the Sutton-in-Ashfield Urban District (Water) Bill [Lords], the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with :—That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill."

Resolutions agreed to 1323

PETITIONS.

BEER BILL.—Petition from Hurstmonceaux, in favour ; to lie upon the Table 1324

CHURCH DISCIPLINE.—Petition from Wolverhampton, for alteration of Law ; to lie upon the Table 1325

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (HIGHER GRADE AND EVENING CONTINUATION SCHOOLS).—Petitions for alteration of Law, from Coventry ; and Middlesbrough ; to lie upon the Table 1325

OFFICERS OF THE INDIAN STAFF CORPS.—Two Petitions from Officers of the Indian Staff Corps, for redress of grievances ; to lie upon the Table 1325

PARLIAMENTARY FRANCHISE.—Petition from Hastings, for extension to women ; to lie upon the Table 1325

POOR LAW OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1896.—Petition from Wolstanton, for alteration of Law ; to lie upon the Table 1325

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN BILL.—Petitions, in favour, from Leicester (two) ; London ; North Shields ; Bradford ; Leicestershire ; Wharfedale ; Kennington (three) ; Durham ; Shipley ; Scoonie ; Plymouth ; Glasgow ; Inverness ; Sheffield (seven) ; Kingston-upon-Hull ; Dundee ; Worthing ; Middlesbrough ; Newport Pagnell ; and Bolton ; to lie upon the Table 1325

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petitions, in favour, from Auchterarder (two) ; Biggar ; Cruden ; Lanark ; Dumfries ; Torryburn ; Port Glasgow ; and Galashiels ; to lie upon the Table 1325

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

MINES (COURRIERES COLLIERIES).—Copy presented, of Report to the Secretary of State for the Home Department by four of His Majesty's Inspectors of Mines on the methods of preventing falls of roof adopted at Courrieres Collieries, Department of the Pas-de-Calais, France [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table 1325

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Army (Lieutenant General Sir H. E. Colvile, K.C.M.G., C.B.).—Copy presented, of Correspondence relative to the recall of Lieutenant General Sir H. E. Colvile, K.C.M.G., C.B. [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1326

Army (Yeomanry Cavalry).—Copy presented, of Training Return of Yeomanry Cavalry for 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1326

Navy (Training of Naval Junior Officers) (Committee).—Copy presented, of Report of the Committee appointed by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to inquire into and report on the Training and Examination of Junior Naval Officers, with the Circular announcing the Changes to the Fleet [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1326

Cyprus.—Copy presented, of Annual Report for 1899–1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1326

QUESTIONS.

South African War—Peace Negotiations with General Botha.—Question, Mr. Lloyd-George (Carnarvon Boroughs); Answer, The First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) 1326

Burning of Towns in Orange River Colony.—Question, Mr. Lloyd-George; Answer, The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford) 1326

Farm Burning—Correspondence between Lord Roberts and General Botha.—Question, Mr. Lloyd George; Answer, Mr. Brodrick 1327

Welsh Hospital in South Africa.—Questions, Lieut.-Colonel Pryce Jones (Montgomery Boroughs), Mr. Brynmor Jones (Swansea District), and Mr. G. T. Kenyon (Denbighshire); Answers, The Financial Secretary to the War Office (Lord Stanley, Lancashire, Westhoughton) 1327

South African Meat Contracts.—Questions, Mr. Herbert Lewis (Flint Boroughs) and Mr. Field (Dublin, St. Patrick); Answers, Lord Stanley 1328

Pensions for Disabled Soldiers.—Question, Mr. Reginald Lucas (Portsmouth); Answer, Lord Stanley 1330

Volunteer Infantry Brigade Camps.—Questions, Colonel Lucas (Suffolk, Lowestoft) and Mr. James Kenyon (Lancashire, Bury); Answers, Lord Stanley 1330

Re-armament of Volunteer Artillery.—Questions, Mr. Ormsby-Gore (Lincolnshire, Gainsborough) and Mr. William Redmond (Clare, E.); Answers, Lord Stanley 1330

Reserve Regiments—Disbandment.—Question, Captain Norton (Newington, W.); Answer, Lord Stanley 1331

Enlistment Age Rules.—Question, Mr. Pirie (Aberdeen, N.); Answer, Lord Stanley 1331

Army Contracts—Rations, Etc.—Purchase in Ireland.—Questions, Mr. Field and Captain Donelan (Cork, E.); Answers, Lord Stanley 1333

Winchester School Rifle Range.—Questions, Mr. Holland (Yorkshire, W.R., Rotherham) and Mr. T. M. Healy (Louth, N.); Answers, Lord Stanley 1334

New Battleships—Launching, Weight, Etc.—Questions, Mr. Kearley (Devonport); Answer, The Secretary to the Admiralty (Mr. Arnold-Forster, Belfast, W.) 1334

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CHINA—STRENGTH OF BRITISH AND OTHER NAVIES IN CHINESE WATERS.—Question, Sir Christopher Furness (Hartlepool); Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster 1335

NORTH CHINA EXPEDITION—CLOTHING OF INDIAN TROOPS.—Question, Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggree (Bethnal Green, N.E.); Answer, The Secretary of State for India (Lord G. Hamilton, Middlesex, Ealing) 1335

TRADE IN AFRICAN PROTECTORATES.—Questions, Mr. John Ellis (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe) and Mr. Lough (Islington, W.); Answers, The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Viscount Cranborne, Rochester) 1336

NICARAGUA CANAL—HAY-PAUNCEFOTE TREATY.—Question, Sir Christopher Furness; Answer, Viscount Cranborne 1338

ASHANTI EXPENDITURE—THE GOLDEN STOOL.—Questions, Mr. C. P. Scott (Lancashire, Leigh), Mr. James Lowther (Kent, Thanet), and Mr. Lough; Answers, The Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. J. Chamberlain, Birmingham, W.) 1338

INDIAN CABLE RATES.—Questions, Sir Edward Sassoon (Hythe); Answers, Lord G. Hamilton and the Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Worcestershire, E.) 1339

LAW OFFICERS' SALARIES.—Question, Mr. Coghill (Stoke-upon-Trent); Answer, The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Sir M. Hicks Beach, Bristol, W.).. .. 1342

PORT SANITARY AUTHORITIES—COST OF MAINTENANCE.—Question, Colonel Sadler (Middlesbrough); Answer, Sir M. Hicks Beach 1342

COINAGE—HALF CROWNS AND FLORINS.—Question, Mr. Crombie (Kincardineshire); Answer, Sir M. Hicks Beach 1343

INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE WHARFEDALE UNION, YORKSHIRE.—Question, Mr. Flower (Bradford, W.); Answer, The President of the Local Government Board (Mr. Long, Bristol, W.) 1343

SMALL DWELLINGS ACQUISITION ACT, 1899.—Questions, Mr. Horner (Lambeth, N.) and Dr. Macnamara (Camberwell, N.); Answers, Mr. Walter Long.. 1343

MAGISTRATES AND THE OATH OF ALLEGIANCE.—Question, Mr. Lloyd Morgan (Carmarthenshire, W.); Answer, The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Ritchie, Croydon) 1345

DRAYCOTT (DERBYSHIRE) CEMETERY.—Question, Sir Walter Foster (Derbyshire, Ilkeston); Answer, Mr. Ritchie 1345

REPORT OF PATENT LAW COMMITTEE.—Question, Mr. Cawley (Lancashire, Prestwich); Answer, The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Gerald Balfour, Leeds Central) 1346

ALL-NIGHT SITTINGS—TEMPERATURE OF HOUSE.—Question, Mr. Arthur Lee (Hampshire, Fareham); Answer, The First Commissioner of Works (Mr. Akers-Douglas, Kent, St. Augustine's) 1346

DUCHY OF CORNWALL—COAL ROYALTIES IN SOMERSETSHIRE.—Question, Mr. Strachey (Somersetshire, S.); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain .. 1346

STOLEN POSTAGE STAMPS.—Question, Mr. Loder (Brighton); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1347

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THE "PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES"—BINDING OF FREE COPIES.—Question, Colonel Milward (Warwickshire, Stratford-upon-Avon); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1347

SECOND DIVISION CLERKS.—Question, Captain Norton; Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1348

ROYAL PARKS, KEW GARDENS, ETC.—Question, Mr. T. M. Healy; Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1348

POSTAL SERVICE—AGE LIMIT FOR COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS.—Question, Mr. Patrick O'Brien (Kilkenny); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1349

SCOTTISH MUSSEL FISHERIES.—Question, Mr. Tully (Leitrim S.); Answer, The Lord Advocate (Mr. A. Graham Murray, Buteshire) 1349

IRISH LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD STAFF.—Question, Mr. James O'Connor (Wicklow, W.); Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Wyndham, Dover) 1350

SMALL HOUSES ACQUISITION ACT.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1350

ROXBORO ROAD SCHOOLS, LIMERICK—Question, Mr. Joyce (Limerick); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1351

COUNTY DOWN CONSTABULARY.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell (Longford, N.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1351

NURSES IN IRISH WORKHOUSES.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1351

LONGFORD CROWN SOLICITOR.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1352

IRISH EDUCATION COMMISSIONERS' STORES.—Question, Mr. Nannetti (Dublin, College Green); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1353

IRISH NATIONAL SCHOOLS—BUILDING ESTIMATES.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell; Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1354

BOYLE GUARDIANS—CASE OF JOSEPH GRADY.—Question, Mr. Tully; Answer, Lord Stanley 1355

NAVY ESTIMATES.—Questions, Mr. Edmund Robertson (Dundee) and Mr. John Redmond (Waterford); Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1355

NEW BILLS.

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS ACTS AMENDMENT.—Bill to amend the Acts relating to Industrial Schools, ordered to be brought in by Dr. Macnamara, Mr. Flower, Captain Norton, Sir Fortescue Flannery, and Mr. Corrie Grant.

Industrial Schools Acts Amendment Bill.—"To amend the Acts relating to Industrial Schools," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Friday, 22nd March, and to be printed. [Bill 94.] 355

SOVEREIGN'S OATH ON ACCESSION.—Bill to amend the Sovereign's Accession Oath as regards the statements in it concerning the Roman Catholic religion, ordered to be brought in by Mr. William Redmond, Mr. Blake, Mr. Abraham, Captain Donelan, Mr. Patrick O'Brien, Mr. Flynn, Mr. Hayden, Mr. Murphy, and Mr. Boland.

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Sovereign's Oath on Accession Bill.—"To amend the Sovereign's Accession Oath as regards the statements in it concerning the Roman Catholic Religion," presented.

Motion made, and Question proposed—
"That the Bill be now read the first time."—(*Mr. William Redmond.*)

Mr. William Johnston (*Belfast, S.*) 1356

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the first time; to be read a second time upon Wednesday, 3rd April, and to be printed. [Bill 95.]

SUPPLY (ARMY ESTIMATES).—Order read for resuming Adjourned Debate on Amendment to Question [11th March], "That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair."

And which Amendment was—

"To leave out from the word 'That,' to the end of the Question, in order to add the words 'in the opinion of this House, the public interest requires that a complete and immediate inquiry be made into all the circumstances connected with the removal from his command at Gibraltar of Major General Sir Henry Colvile, K.C.M.G., C.B.,' instead thereof."—(*Mr. Charles Douglas.*)

Question again proposed—
"That the words proposed be left out stand part of the Question."

Discussion:—

Colonel Blundell (*Lancashire, Ince*) 1357
Mr. Lawson Walton (*Leeds, S.*) 1359
Sir J. Dickson-Poynder (*Wiltshire, Chippenham*) 1368

Attention called to the fact that forty Members were not present. House counted, and, forty Members being found present—

Colonel Nolan (*Galway, N.*) 1372
Mr. Pirie (*Aberdeen, N.*) 1374
Mr. Winston Churchill (*Oldham*) 1378
Mr. Yerburgh (*Chester*) 1383
Mr. Munro Ferguson (*Leith Burghs*) 1387
The First Lord of the Treasury (*Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.*) 1391
Mr. Asquith (*Fifeshire, E.*) 1398
The Secretary of State for the Colonies (*Mr. J. Chamberlain, Birmingham, W.*) 1404
Mr. Dalziel (*Kirkcaldy Burghs*) 1407

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 262; Noes, 148. (Division List No. 60.)

Main Question again proposed, "That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair."

It being after midnight, the debate stood adjourned.

Adjourned debate to be resumed to-morrow.

SUPPLY [28TH FEBRUARY].—Resolutions reported:—

CIVIL SERVICES SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES, 1900–1901.

Class I.

1. "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £5,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment

during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Houses of Parliament Buildings."

2. "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £2,500, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for Expenditure in respect of Art and Science Buildings, Great Britain."

3. "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £2,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for Expenditure in respect of Diplomatic and Consular Buildings."

4. "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £7,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Expenses of the Post Office, and Post Office Telegraph Buildings in Great Britain, including Furniture, Fuel, and Sundry Miscellaneous Services."

Resolutions read a second time.

First Resolution :—

Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

Discussion :—

Mr. Tully (Leitrim, S.) 1412
Mr. William Redmond (Clare, E.) 1412
Mr. J. P. Farrell (Longford, N.) 1415
The First Commissioner of Works (Mr. Akers Douglas, Kent, St. Augustine's) 1416
Mr. O'Mara (Kilkenny, S.) 1418
Mr. Crean (Cork Co., S.E.) 1419
Mr. Flavin (Kerry, N.) 1419

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 139 ; Noes, 57. (Division List No. 61.)

Second Resolution :—

Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

Mr. Tully 1423
Mr. William Redmond 1424

Mr. A. J. Balfour rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The House divided :—Ayes, 123 ; Noes, 70. (Division List No. 62.)

Question put accordingly, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

The House divided :—Ayes, 132 ; Noes, 57. (Division List No. 63.)

Further Consideration of the Third and Fourth Resolutions deferred till Thursday.

Motion made, and Question, "That this House do now adjourn"—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour*)—put, and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at five minutes before Two of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, WEDNESDAY, 13TH MARCH, 1901.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Metropolitan Electric Supply Bill; West Surrey Water Bill.—Read a second time, and committed 1429

STANDING ORDERS.—Resolution reported from the Committee, "That, in the case of the Scarborough Electric Tramways Petition, the Standing Orders ought not to be dispensed with." Report to lie upon the Table 1429

PETITIONS.

BEER BILL.—Petitions in favour, from North Oxfordshire; Charlbury; and West Lindsey; to lie upon the Table 1429

COLVILE, MAJOR GENERAL SIR HENRY.—Petition from South Derbyshire, for inquiry into his case; to lie upon the Table 1429

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (HIGHER GRADE AND EVENING CONTINUATION SCHOOLS).—Petitions for alteration of Law, from Gloucester; West Hartlepool; Edmonton; Swindon; and Kidderminster; to lie upon the Table .. 1429

POOR LAW OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1896.—Petitions for alteration of Law, from Edmonton; and Newton-in-Makerfield; to lie upon the Table .. 1429

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN BILL.—Petitions in favour, from Farnworth; Leeds; Wetherby; Wimborne; Sheffield (twelve); Herne Hill; North Kensington; Dunoon; Notting Hill; Pontypool; Southampton; Liverpool; Congregational Union of Scotland; Colne (seven); Saundersfoot; Willenhall; Middon; Amble; Nottingham; Blaenavon; Shotts; Buckhaven; Edinburgh; Allenby; Plaistow; London; Motherwell; York (three); Chelmsford; Aberdeen; West Kent; Dunscore; Sidcup; Hartlepool; Caistor; Walthamstow; Camelon; Grangemouth; Watford; Rotherham; Greasbro'; Barrow-in-Furness; and Whitehaven; to lie upon the Table 1429

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petitions in favour, from Ellon; Greenock (three); Blair Athol; Broughty Ferry; Kilbarchan; Forfar; Methlick; Moffat; Leslie; and Dunscore; to lie upon the Table 1430

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

NAVY (VICTUALLING YARD MANUFACTURING ACCOUNTS, 1899-1900).—Annual Accounts presented, of the Cost of Manufacturing, Provisions, Victualling Stores, etc., at the Home Victualling Yards and Malta Yard for 1899-1900, etc., with the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 82.] 1430

REFORMATORY AND INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS (GREAT BRITAIN).—Copy presented, of Forty-fourth Report of His Majesty's Inspector of Reformatory and Industrial Schools for 1900. Part I. List of Schools and Detailed Reports [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1430

PAPER LAID UPON THE TABLE BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE.—St. Cross Hospital, Winchester.—Return relative thereto [ordered 11th March; *Sir Walter Foster*]. 1430

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Congested Districts (Ireland) Bill.—[SECOND READING.]—Order for Second Reading read.
Mr. Flynn (*Cork Co., N.*) 1430
Dr. Ambrose (*Mayo, W.*) 1434

Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That the Bill be now read a second time."
Mr. Macartney (*Antrim, S.*) 1439
Mr. Moore (*Antrim, N*) 1445

Amendment proposed—
"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day six months.' "—(*Mr. Macartney.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

Discussion :—
Mr. John O'Donnell Mayo, S.) 1441
Mr. Rentoul (*Down, E.*) 1459
Mr. Hemphill (*Tyrone, N.*) 1462
Mr. Lecky (*Dublin University*) 1466
Mr. T. W. Russell (*Tyrone, S.*) 1466
Mr. T. P. O'Connor (*Liverpool, Scotland*) 1471
The Chief Secretary for Ireland (*Mr. Wyndham, Dover*) 1476
Mr. T. M. Healy (*Louth, N.*) 1486

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 163 ; Noes, 250. (Division List No. 64.)

Ulster Custom Bill.—[SECOND READING.]—Order for second Reading read.
Mr. Banbury (*Camberwell, Peckham*) *objected.*
Second Reading deferred till to-morrow 1495

EDUCATION (LOCAL AUTHORITIES).—Bill for making better provision for the promotion by local authorities of education other than elementary education ; and for other purposes, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Henry Hobhouse, Mr. Flower, Colonel Williams, Sir Francis Powell, Mr. Bill, and Mr. Lawrence.

Education (Local Authorities) Bill.—"For making better provision for the promotion by local authorities of education other than elementary education ; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time ; to be read a second time upon Thursday, 18th April, and to be printed. [Bill 96.] 1495

Police Superannuation (Scotland) Bill.—The Select Committee on the Police Superannuation (Scotland) Bill was nominated of, The Lord Advocate, Mr. George Brown, Mr. Caldwell, Mr. Colville, Earl of Dalkeith, Mr. J. A. Dewar, Dr. Farquharson, Mr. Maxwell, Sir Lewis M'Iver, Mr. Nicol, Mr. Parker Smith, Sir John Stirling-Maxwell, Mr. Stopford-Sackville, Mr. Tennant, and Mr. John Wilson (Falkirk).

Ordered, That the Committee have power to send for persons, papers, and records.

Ordered, That Five be the quorum.—(*Sir William Walrond.*) 1495

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PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE.—Second Report brought up, and read; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 1495

Adjourned at a quarter before Six of the clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS: THURSDAY, 14TH MARCH, 1901.

Several Lords took the Oath.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The Lord Chancellor acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with:—South Lancashire Tramways [H.L.]; Great Southern and Western Railway [H.L.]. The same were ordered to lie on the Table .. 1497

Stratton and Bude Gas Bill [H.L.].—The Lord Chancellor informed the House that the promoters do not intend to proceed further with the Bill; The Order made on Monday last discharged; ordered, that the Bill be not further proceeded with 1497

Christ's Hospital (London) Bill [H.L.]; Leeds Churches Bill [H.L.]; St. Bartholomew's Hospital Bill [H.L.]; Great Southern and Western Railway Bill [H.L.]. Read 2*a* (according to order) 1497

Piccadilly and City Railway Bill [H.L.].—Standing Order No. 92 considered (according to order) and dispensed with, with respect to a Petition of the Reverend John Fenwick Kitto: Leave given to present the said Petition 1497

Bristol, Clifton, and West of England Zoological Society Bill [H.L.]; Royal Exchange Assurance Bill [H.L.]; Faversham Water Bill [H.L.]; Sheffield District Railway Bill [H.L.]; Nitrate Railways Company Bill [H.L.]. Committed 1497

Weston-super-Mare Gas Bill [H.L.]; Wisbech Water Bill [H.L.]; Omagh Gas Bill [H.L.]; Cardiff Railway Bill [H.L.]. Committed. The Committees to be proposed by the Committee of Selection 1498

Dover Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Poulton-le-Fylde Gas Bill [H.L.]; Prestatyn Water Bill [H.L.]; Salford Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Sheffield Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Shields Bridge Bill [H.L.]; Omagh Gas Bill [H.L.]. Report from the Committee of Selection, That the following Lords be proposed to the House to form the Select Committee for the consideration of the said Bills—viz.:—E. Lathom, V. Falmouth, L. Sinclair, L. Newton (chairman), and L. Muncaster; agreed to; and the said Lords appointed accordingly. The Committee to meet on Tuesday next, at Eleven o'clock; and all petitions referred to the Committee, with leave to the petitioners praying to be heard by counsel against the Bills to be heard as desired, as also counsel for the Bill 1498

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

NAVY.—Report of the Committee appointed by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to inquire into and report on the training and examination of Junior Naval Officers; with the circular announcing the changes to the Fleet 1498

March 14.] *Page*

Board of Education.—Code of Regulations for Day Schools for 1901; with schedules and appendices 1498

Reformatory and Industrial Schools (Great Britain).—Forty-fourth Report for the year 1900, of the Inspector of Reformatory and Industrial Schools. Part I. List of Schools and Detailed Reports 1498

Mines (Courrieres Collieries).—Report to the Secretary of State for the Home Department by four of His Majesty's Inspectors of Mines, on the methods of preventing fall of roof adopted at Courrieres Collieries, Department of the Pas-de-Calais, France 1499

Church Estates Commission.—Fiftieth Report from the Church Estates Commission, for the year preceding 1st March, 1901 1499

Cyprus.—Report for 1899–1900 1499

Trade Reports (Annual).—No. 2561. Western Pacific (Samoa) 1499

Irish Land Commission (Proceedings).—Return during the month of November, 1900 1499

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

Superannuation.—Treasury Minute, dated 7th January, 1901, granting a retired allowance to Mr. E. A. de Wiele, Admiralty Writer, under Section 2 of the Act.. 1499

Lunacy (Scotland),—Rules for the engineer and the plumber of the Inverness District Asylum 1499

Bankruptcy Courts (Ireland).—Returns of the Official Assignees of the Court of Bankruptcy in Ireland and the local courts, Belfast and Cork, for the year 1900 1499

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

PETITION.

Intoxicating Liquors.—Petition against the sale of, to children under sixteen years of age; read, and ordered to lie on the Table 1499

Licensing Sessions Bill [h.l.] [Second Reading].—Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

The Lord Bishop of Winchester 1500

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2*a*."—(*The Lord Bishop of Winchester.*)

Lord Belper 1507
Earl Spencer 1509

On Question, agreed to. Bill read 2*a* accordingly, and committed to a Committee of the whole House on Thursday next.

Habitual Drunkards Bill [h.l.] [Second Reading].—Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

The Lord Bishop of Winchester 1510

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2*a*."—(*The Lord Bishop of Winchester.*)
The Prime Minister and Lord Privy Seal (*The Marquess of Salisbury*) 1511

On Question, agreed to. Bill read 2*a* accordingly, and committed to a Committee of the whole House on Thursday next.

INDIA—FOOD SUPPLY—REVENUE COLLECTION—FINANCE AND CURRENCY:—
Lord Sandhurst 1512
The Under Secretary of State for India (The Earl of Hardwicke) .. 1513

House adjourned at twenty minutes before Six of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: THURSDAY, 14TH MARCH, 1901.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Rhyl Bridge Bill (BY ORDER).—Order for Second Reading read, and discharged.

Bill withdrawn.

Gas, Light and Coke Company Bill (BY ORDER).—Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made and Question proposed—

"That the Bill be now read a second time."

Mr. Lough (Islington, W.) 1516
Mr. Alban Gibbs (London) 1518

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day six months.'"—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

Mr. Cripps (Lancashire, Stretford) 1518
Mr. Sydney Buxton (Tower Hamlets, Poplar) 1519
Mr. Gray (West Ham, N.) 1520
Mr. John Burns (Battersea) 1520
Mr. Cohen (Islington, E.) 1522
The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Gerald Balfour, Leeds, Central) 1522

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Bill withdrawn.

Great Eastern Railway Bill (BY ORDER).—Order read, for resuming Adjourned Debate on Amendment to Question [12th March], "That the Bill be now read a second time."

And which Amendment was—

"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day six months.'"—(Mr. *Bell.*)

Question again proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

Mr. Penn (Lewisham) 1524
Mr. Bell (Derby) 1524

Motion made, and Question put, "That the Debate be now adjourned."—(*Mr. Lough.*)

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The House divided:—Ayes, 151; Noes, 160. (Division List No. 65.)

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Main Question again proposed.

Mr. John Burns (Battersea) 1527
Mr. Gerald Balfour 1529
Mr. Tennant (Berwickshire) 1530
The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Ritchie, Croydon) 1530
Mr. Bell 1531
Mr. Caine (Cornwall, Camborne) 1531
Sir Fortescue Flannery (Yorkshire, Shipley) 1531
Colonel Lockwood (Essex, Epping) 1532
Sir Joseph Pease (Durham, Barnard Castle) 1533
Mr. Lloyd George (Carnarvon Boroughs) 1533
The Chairman of Committees (Mr. J. W. Lowther, Cumberland, Penrith) 1534
Sir John Brunner (Cheshire, Northwich) 1535
Mr. Courtney Warner (Staffordshire, Lichfield) 1535
Mr. Bell 1535
Mr. T. P. O'Connor (Liverpool, Scotland) 1536
Mr. Keir Hardie (Merthyr Tydvil) 1536

Main Question put, and agreed to. Bill read a second time, and committed.

Ordered, That it be an Instruction to the Committee to insert the following clause:—No scheme for the establishment of a provident fund under this Act shall come into operation until it has been registered by the Registrar of Friendly Societies under the Friendly Societies Act.—(*Mr. Strachey.*)

NORTH BRITISH RAILWAY BILL:—

Mr. Bell 1537

Motion made and Question proposed—

"That it be an Instruction to the Committee to strike out sub-section (3) in Clause 45 of the North British Railway Bill."—(*Mr. Bell.*)

The Earl of Dalkeith (Roxburghshire) 1538

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP D).—The Chairman of Ways and Means informed the House that the Committee on Group D of Private Bills not being appointed to meet until Thursday next, the parties opposing the Heckmondwike Gas (Transfer) Bill, which was set down for consideration on the first day of the meeting of the Committee, had appeared before him and proved that the evidence of Arthur Frederick Goodson, Secretary to the Heckmondwike Gas Company, Gas Works, Heckmondwike, was essential to their case, and that his attendance could not be procured without the intervention of the House.

Ordered, That the said Arthur Frederick Goodson do attend the Committee on Group D of Private Bills on Thursday next, at half-past Eleven of the clock.—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*) 1538

PETITIONS.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (HIGHER GRADE AND EVENING CONTINUATION SCHOOLS).—Petition from Bedford, for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table 1539

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INHABITED HOUSE DUTY AND INCOME TAX.—Petition from Westminster, for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table 1539

PARLIAMENTARY FRANCHISE.—Petitions for extension to women, from Bolton; and Longforgan; to lie upon the Table 1539

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY BILL.—Petition from Chertsey, in favour; to lie upon the Table 1539

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN BILL.—Petitions in favour, from Cleator Moor; Wark-on-Tyne; Gateshead (two); Otley; Cuckfield; Longcott and Fernham; Nigg; Holme Eden; Birmingham (three); Lincoln (one); Tow Law; Abersychan; Edinburgh (four); Dulverton; Teesdale; Sheffield (three); Norton; Carlisle (three); Chorley; Govan; New Whittington; York (two); Hull; Tarvin; and Barrow-in-Furness; to lie upon the Table 1539

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petitions in favour, from Wick and Pulteneytown; Hamilton; Nigg; Cambusnethan; Dunfermline; Tomintoul; Liberton; Loanhead; Duffus; Edinburgh; Rattray; Wishaw; Dingwall; Newton Stewart; Gardenstown; Alloa; New Muchar; Dumfries; and Keith; to lie upon the Table 1539

SOVEREIGN'S OATH ON ACCESSION BILL.—Petitions against, from Alva; Dunfermline; and Cowdenbeath; to lie upon the Table 1539

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

ST. CROSS HOSPITAL, WINCHESTER.—Return [presented 13th March] to be printed. [No. 83] 1540

CHURCH ESTATES COMMISSION.—Copy presented, of Fiftieth Report from the Church Estates Commissioners for the year preceding 1st March, 1901 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1540

SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1887.—Copy presented, of Treasury Minute, dated 7th January, 1901, granting a retired allowance to Mr. E. A. de Wiele, Admiralty Writer, under the Act [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 1540

LUNACY (SCOTLAND).—Copy presented, of Rules for the Engineer and the Plumber of the Inverness District Asylum [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 1540

IRISH LAND COMMISSION (PROCEEDINGS).—Copy presented, of Return of Proceedings during the month of November, 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1540

BANKRUPTCY COURTS (IRELAND).—Annual Returns presented, of the Official Assignees of the Court of Bankruptcy in Ireland and the Local Courts, Belfast and Cork, for the year 1900 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table .. 1540

BOARD OF EDUCATION (CODE 1901).—Copy presented, of Code of Regulations for Day Schools, with Schedules and Appendices, by the Board of Education [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1540

ARMY.—Copy presented, of Memorandum of Field Marshal Viscount Wolseley and of Memoranda thereon [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1540

PAPER LAID UPON THE TABLE BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE.—Controverted Elections.—Further Return, Copy of Minutes of Evidence and Judgment in the Cockermouth Election Trial [ordered 22nd February; *Mr. Attorney General*] 1540

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT (IRELAND) OFFICIALS.—Return ordered, "showing the names, dates of appointments, and emoluments of all Officials transferred by virtue of the provisions of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898, to County, District Councils, or Boards of Guardians, with the salaries of every such official as fixed by these bodies, or as determined by the Local Government Board; the increases in the poundage rates consequent upon the operation of these provisions of the Act where the salaries were increased; the amount proposed to be paid by these bodies to any such official by way of compensation or retiring allowance, and the amount determined by the Treasury on appeal to be payable."—(*Mr. Wyndham*) 1541

WINES IMPORTED.—Return ordered, "showing the quantity of Wines, at the various degrees of strength, which were imported into the United Kingdom in 1900 from Spain, Portugal, Madeira, France, Germany, Holland, Italy, Australasia, and other countries (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 155, of Session 1900)."—(*Mr. T. R. Dewar.*) 154

CONTROVERTED ELECTIONS.—Mr. SPEAKER informed the House that he had received from the Judges for the time being on the rota for the trial of Election Petitions the Certificate and Report relating to the Election for the Cockermouth Division of the County of Cumberland 1541

QUESTIONS.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—MR. ADRIAN HOFMEYR'S MISSION.—Question, Mr. Pirie (Aberdeen, N.); Answer, The Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. J. Chamberlain, Birmingham, W.) 1543

NAVAL BRIGADE DESPATCHES.—Question, Sir J. Fergusson (Manchester, N.E.); Answer, The Secretary to the Admiralty (Mr. Arnold-Forster, Belfast, W.) 1544

COLONIAL TROOPS—STATISTICS.—Question, Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean); Answer, The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford) 1544

PENSIONS FOR SOLDIERS' WIDOWS AND ORPHANS.—Question, Mr. Kearley, (Devonport); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 1544

BOER PRISONERS—PLACES OF CUSTODY.—Questions, Mr. James O'Connor (Wicklow, W.), and Mr. Trevelyan (Yorkshire, W.R., Elland); Answers, The Secretary of State for India (Lord G. Hamilton, Middlesex, Ealing), and Mr. Brodrick 1545

COURTS-MARTIAL—STATISTICS OF IMPRISONMENT.—Question, Mr. T. M. Healy (Louth, N.); Answer, The Financial Secretary to the War Office (Lord Stanley, Lancashire, Westhoughton) 1546

CIVIL SURGEONS AND NURSES—WAR GRATUITY.—Question, Sir Andrew Agnew (Edinburgh, S.); Answer, Lord Stanley 1546

SOUTH AFRICAN COLD STORAGE COMPANY'S CONTRACT.—Question, Mr. Field (Dublin, St. Patrick's); Answer, Lord Stanley 1547

WELSH HOSPITAL IN SOUTH AFRICA.—Questions, Mr. G. T. Kenyon (Denbigh) and Mr. Brynmor Jones (Swansea District); Answers, Lord Stanley .. 1547

IMPERIAL YEOMANRY RECRUITS—RIDING AND SHOOTING TESTS.—Question, Mr. Bartley (Islington, N.); Answer, Lord Stanley 1548

YEOMANRY CAVALRY TRAININGS.—Question, Colonel Warde (Kent, Medway); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 1548

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RESERVE OFFICERS.—Question, Sir J. Fergusson; Answer, Mr. Brodrick .. 1549

WAR OFFICE—LORD WOLSELEY'S MEMORANDUM TO LORD SALISBURY.—Question, Mr. Labouchere (Northampton); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 1549

PORT OF INCHKEITH GUNS.—Question, Mr. John Hope (Fifeshire, W.); Answer, Lord Stanley 1549

WELSH HOSPITAL HEADQUARTERS.—Question, Mr. Stanley Leighton (Shropshire, Oswestry); Answer, Lord Stanley 1550

MARK IV. BULLETS.—Question, Mr. Herbert Lewis (Flint Boroughs); Answer, Lord Stanley 1550

MEDICAL ATTENDANCE FOR SOLDIERS' WIVES.—Question, Mr. Archdale (Fermanagh, N.); Answer, Lord Stanley 1551

SOLDIERS' UNCLAIMED BALANCES.—Question, Mr. Kearley; Answer, Lord Stanley 1551

DECEASED OFFICERS' BAGGAGE.—Question, Mr. Hay (Shoreditch, Hoxton); Answer, Lord Stanley 1551

DEAD SOLDIERS' CLOTHING.—Question, Sir Walter Foster (Derbyshire, Ilkeston); Answer, Lord Stanley 1551

LONDON VOLUNTEERS—RIFLE RANGES.—Question, Colonel Long (Worcestershire, Evesham); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 1552

ILFORD RIFLE RANGE.—Question, Colonel Long; Answer, Lord Stanley .. 1553

NON-ALCOHOLIC REFRESHMENTS FOR TRAVELLING SOLDIERS AND SAILORS.—Questions, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty) and Major Rasch (Essex, Chelmsford); Answer, Lord Stanley 1553

PATRICK M'NAMARA'S PENSION.—Question, Mr. Murphy (Kerry, E.); Answer, Lord Stanley 1554

QUEEN VICTORIA'S FUNERAL—1ST SEAFORTH VOLUNTEERS.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Lord Stanley 1554

NEW NAVAL BARRACKS AT PORTSEA.—Question, Mr. Reginald Lucas (Portsmouth); Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster 1555

DEPTFORD VICTUALLING YARD LIGHTING.—Question, Captain Norton (Newington, W.); Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster 1556

ILLEGAL TRAWLING NEAR ABERDEEN—THE "JACKAL."—Question, Mr. Pirie; Answer, Mr. Arnold Forster 1556

ABYSSINIAN FRONTIER DISPUTE.—Question, Sir Charles Dilke; Answer, The First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) 1557

CHINA—RUSSIA AND MANCHURIA.—Question, Mr. William Redmond (Clare, E.); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1558

NICARAGUA CANAL—HAY-PAUNCEFOTE TREATY.—Question, Mr. William Redmond; Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1558

SOMALILAND OPERATIONS.—Question, Mr. C. P. Scott (Lancashire, Leigh); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1558

WEST AFRICA—COST OF WARLIKE OPERATIONS.—Question, Mr. Sydney Buxton (Tower Hamlets, Poplar); Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain 1558

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WEST AFRICA—GOLDMINING OPERATIONS.—Question, Mr. Labouchere (Northampton); Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain 1559

RHODESIA—NATIVE LABOUR.—Question, Mr. Labouchere; Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain 1560

PRESS COMMENTS ON PENDING TRIALS.—Question, Mr. Marshall Hall (Lancashire, Southport); Answer, The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Ritchie, Croydon) 1561

PRESS INTERVIEWS WITH WITNESSES ON PENDING TRIALS.—Question, Mr. Powell-Williams (Birmingham, S.); Answer, The Attorney General (Sir Robert Finlay, Inverness Burghs) 1561

WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY AND LIFE SAVING ARRANGEMENTS.—Question, Sir R. Penrose Fitzgerald (Cambridge); Answer, The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Gerald Balfour, Leeds Central) 1562

P. AND O. STEAMERS—ACCOMMODATION FOR LASCARS.—Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 1562

AVOCH CHANNEL BUOYS.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 1563

RAILWAY COMPANIES' BICYCLE RATES.—Question, Mr. Lough (Islington, W.); Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 1563

IRON AND STEEL IMPORTS.—Question, Mr. Caine (Cornwall, Camborne); Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 1564

PONTEFRACT LOCOMOTIVE EXPLOSION.—Question, Mr. Bell (Derby); Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 1564

HYDE PARK CORNER CARRIAGE WAY.—Question, Mr. Marshall Hall; Answer, The First Commissioner of Works (Mr. Akers Douglas, Kent, St. Augustine's) 1565

MEMBERS' LOCKERS.—Question, Mr. John O'Donnell (Mayo, S.); Answer, Mr. Akers Douglas 1565

THE PYX CHAPEL.—Question, Mr. G. T. Kenyon; Answer, Mr. Akers Douglas..1565

RICHMOND PARK.—Question, Mr. Skewes-Cox (Surrey, Kingston); Answer, Mr. Akers Douglas 1566

TRAPP (CARMARTHENSHIRE) NATIONAL SCHOOL.—Question, Mr. Abel Thomas (Carmarthenshire); Answer, The Vice-President of the Board of Education (Sir J. Gorst, Cambridge University) 1566

BOARD SCHOOL SITES IN EAST LONDON—REHOUSING.—Questions, Mr. Thomas Dewar (Tower Hamlets, St. George's) and Major Gordon (Tower Hamlets, Stepney); Answers, Sir J. Gorst 1567

HIGHER ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS—WEST HAM SCHOOL BOARD.—Question. Mr. Gray (West Ham, N.); Answer, Sir J. Gorst 1568

HIGHER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MINUTE.—Question, Sir Francis Powell (Wigan); Answer, Sir J. Gorst 1568

IRISH GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.—Question, Mr. Archdale; Answer, Sir J. Gorst .. 1569

FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE IN SUFFOLK.—Question, Mr. Malcolm (Suffolk, Stowmarket); Answer, The President of the Board of Agriculture (Mr. Hanbury, Preston) 1569

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BUTTER ADULTERATION IN LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE.—Question, Mr. Joyce (Limerick); Answer, The Secretary to the Local Government Board (Mr. Grant Lawson (Yorkshire, W.R., Thirsk) 1570

SALE OF DRUGS ACT, 1899.—Question, Mr. Joyce; Answer, Mr. Grant Lawson 1570

DIVIDED MAGISTERIAL BENCHES.—Questions, Mr. O'Shee (Waterford, W.) and Captain Donelan (Cork, E.); Answer, Sir Robert Finlay 1571

TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION WITH SCOTLAND.—Question, Sir John Leng (Dundee); Answer, The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Worcestershire, E.) 1572

MARRIAGE GRATUITIES FOR POST OFFICE CLERKS.—Question, Mr. Henniker Heaton (Canterbury); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1572

ENNISKILLEN POSTAL STAFF.—Question, Mr. Patrick O'Brien; Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1573

ACHNASHEEN (ROSS-SHIRE) POST OFFICE.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1573

WHITTLESEA POST OFFICE.—Question, Mr. Brand (Cambridgeshire, Wisbech); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1574

SCILLY ISLANDS.—Question, Mr. Taylor (Lancashire, Radcliffe); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1574

PENNY POSTAGE STAMP COLOUR.—Question, Mr. Taylor; Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1574

CONTINENTAL MAILS.—Question, Mr. Cohen (Islington, E.); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1575

APPLECROSS (ROSS-SHIRE) ROADS.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, The Lord Advocate (Mr. A. Graham Murray, Buteshire) 1575

SCOTTISH CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. A. Graham Murray 1576

TELEGRAPHIC ARRANGEMENTS AT SHAWBOST, STORNOWAY.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. A. Graham Murray 1576

GLASGOW SMALL-POX EPIDEMIC.—Questions, Mr. John Campbell (Armagh, S.) and Mr. Bartley; Answers, The Solicitor General for Ireland (Mr. Scott Dickson, Glasgow, Bridgeton) 1577

SOLWAY FIRTH FISHERIES.—Question, Mr. Claude Lowther (Cumberland, Eskdale); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1577

LABOURERS' COTTAGES IN NORTH DUBLIN.—Question, Mr. Clancy (Dublin, County, N.); Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Wyndham, Dover) 1578

DISMISSAL OF MULLOUGH POLICE OFFICERS.—Questions, Major Jameson (Clare, W.), Mr. William Redmond, and Mr. William Johnston (Belfast, S.), Mr. Flavin (Kerry, N.), and Mr. Patrick O'Brien; Answers, Mr. Wyndham 1578

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THE KING'S ACCESSION OATH. — Questions, Mr. Pirie and Mr. William Redmond; Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1602

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.—Questions, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman (Stirling Burghs) and Mr. O'Dowd (Sligo, S.); Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour and Mr. Arnold-Forster 1602

THE CIVIL LIST COMMITTEE—PUBLICATION OF CONFIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS.—Questions, Colonel Kenyon-Slaney (Shropshire, Newport), Mr. T. M. Healy, Mr. Pirie, Mr. Bartley, Sir Charles Dilke, and Mr. Edmund Robertson (Dundee); Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1603

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.—That they have passed a Bill intituled, "An Act for the regulation of burning of human remains, and to enable Burial Authorities to establish crematoria." Cremation Bill [Lords.]

IRELAND—CONDUCT OF POLICE IN COUNTY CLARE.—Major Jameson (Clare, W.) desired to move the adjournment of the House, but Mr. Speaker being of opinion that there were no *prima facie* grounds for the adjournment refused to submit the motion to the House 1604

SUPPLY (ARMY ESTIMATES).—Order read, for resuming Adjourned Debate on

Main Question [12th March], "That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair."

Question again proposed.

Discussion :—

Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman (Stirling Burghs) 1605
Colonel Warde (Kent, Medway) 1619
Captain Norton (Newington, W.) 1621

Attention called to the fact that forty Members were not present. House counted, and forty Members being found present—

Mr. Griffith Boscawen (Kent, Tonbridge) 1634
Sir William Harcourt (Monmouthshire, W.) 1637

The First Lord of the Treasury (*Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.*) 1652
Sir Charles Dilke (*Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean*) 1659

It being midnight, the debate stood adjourned.

Debate to be resumed to-morrow.

SUPPLY [1st March]—Resolutions reported :—

Civil Service Supplementary Estimates, 1900–1901.

Class I.

1. "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £35,200, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, in respect of sundry Public Buildings in Great Britain, not provided for on other Votes."

2. "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £13,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for Rates and Contributions in lieu of Rates, etc., in respect of Government Property."

3. "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £7,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1901, for payments under the Tramways and Public Companies (Ireland) Act, 1883, and the Light Railways (Ireland) Act, 1889."

Class II.

4. "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £6,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Department of His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs."

5. "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £7,200, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Department of His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies."

6. "That a sum, not exceeding £1,015, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Office of the Lord Privy Seal."

Resolutions read a second time.

First Resolution :—

Mr. Tully (*Leitrim, S.*) 1671

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out '£35,200,' and insert '£35,100' instead thereof."—(*Mr. Tully.*)

Question proposed, "That £35,200 stand part of the Resolution."

Mr. O'Mara (*Kilkenny, S.*) 1671
Mr. Flynn (*Cork, N.*) 1672
The First Commissioner of Works (*Mr. Akers Douglas, Kent, St. Augustine's*) 1674
Mr. John Redmond (*Waterford*) 1676

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Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Resolution agreed to.

Second Resolution :—

Mr. T. M. Healy (Louth, N.) 1676
The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Worcestershire, E.) 1677
Mr. Murnaghan (Tyrone, Mid) 1678
Mr. T. W. Russell (Tyrone, S.) 1679

Resolution agreed to.

Third Resolution :—

Mr. T. M. Healy 1679
Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1679

Resolution agreed to.

Further Consideration of remaining Resolutions deferred till To-morrow.

House of Commons Accommodation.—Select Committee appointed to consider whether any, and what, arrangements can be made to improve the accommodation provided for the general use of Members of this House.
Ordered, That the Committee have power to send for persons, papers, and records.

Ordered, That Five be the quorum.—(*Sir William Walrond.*) 1680

Presence of the Sovereign in Parliament.—Resolved, That it is expedient that a Select Committee be appointed to join with a Committee of the Lords to consider the accommodation available in the House of Lords when the Sovereign is personally present in Parliament, and the advisability of substituting Westminster Hall on such an occasion for the House of Lords. Ordered, That a Message be sent to the Lords to acquaint them therewith. —(*Sir William Walrond.*) 1680

Adjourned at a quarter after One of the clock.

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THE

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(*AUTHORISED EDITION*)

IN THE

SECOND SESSION OF THE *TWENTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT* OF THE
UNITED KINGDOM OF *GREAT BRITAIN* AND *IRELAND*, IN THE
FIRST YEAR OF THE REIGN OF

HIS MAJESTY KING EDWARD VII.

SECOND VOLUME OF SESSION.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Thursday, 28th February, 1901.

Several Lords took the Oath.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with :

Bexley Tramways.
Morton Carr Drainage.

And also the Certificates that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have not been complied with :—

Wigan Corporation Tramways.
Watford and District Tramways.
South Lancashire Tramways.
Chester Corporation Tramways.

The same were ordered to lie on the Table.

WEST AND SOUTH LONDON JUNCTION RAILWAY BILL.

Petition of James Douglas Tetley, of 21, Great College Street, Westminster, parliamentary agent, praying that Standing Order No. 86A may be dispensed with, and that the Bill may be read a first time although the time limited by Standing Order 86A has expired ; read, and ordered to lie on the Table ; and Standing Order No. 86A to be considered To-morrow in order to its being dispensed with in respect of the said petition.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

NAVY.

I. Estimates for the year 1901-1902, with explanation of differences.

II. Supplementary Estimate of His Majesty's Navy, for the year 1900-1901.

III. Statement of the First Lord of the Admiralty, explanatory of the Navy Estimates, 1901-1902.

LABOUR STATISTICS.

Seventh annual abstract of labour statistics of the United Kingdom, 1899-1900.

ARMY.

I. (Estimates).—Memorandum of the Secretary of State relative to the Army Estimates of 1901-1902.

II. (Yeomanry).—Report of Committee on the Organisation, Arms, and Equipment of the Yeomanry Force.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

FOREIGN JURISDICTION ACT, 1890.

Order in Council, dated 9th February, 1901, entitled "The Persia (Regulations) Order in Council, 1901."

UNIVERSITIES (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1889.

Annual Statistical Report by the University Court of the University of Aberdeen to the Secretary for Scotland under the provisions of the Universities (Scotland) Act, 1889, for the year 1899-1900.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

The Federal Elections Act, 1900.

GREENWICH HOSPITAL AND TRAVERS' FOUNDATION (CAPITAL AND INCOME ACCOUNTS, 1899-1900).

Accounts of the receipt and expenditure of the capital and of the income derived from the lands and other property held for the benefit of Greenwich Hospital and the foundation of Samuel Travers, Esquire, for the year ended 31st March, 1900; together with the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

CHURCH TEMPORALITIES (IRELAND).

Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General upon the account of the Irish Land Commission in respect of Church Temporalities in Ireland, for the year ended 31st March, 1900; together with the Account for the above period, and that from 26th July, 1869 (the date of the Irish Church Act), to 31st March, 1900.

TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION ACT, 1889.

Minutes, by the Board of Education, sanctioning the subjects to be taught under Clause 8 of the Technical Instruction Act, 1889, for (1) the county of the Isle of Wight (4th minute); (2) the county borough of Oldham (8th minute); (3) the county of the soke of Peterborough (8th minute).

COUNTY COURTS (ENGLAND) (FEES).

Treasury Order, dated 22nd February, 1901, regulating court fees in County Courts.

LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANIES.

Statement of account and of life assurance and annuity business, and abstracts of actuarial reports, deposited with the Board of Trade under "The Life Assurance Companies Act, 1870," during the year ended 31st December, 1900.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

HOUSE OF LORDS OFFICES COMMITTEE.

The Lord Kintore (*E. Kintore*) added to the Committee.

ROYAL CORPS OF CONSTRUCTORS.

*LORD BRASSEY: My Lords, I rise to call attention to the Report of the Departmental Committee appointed by the Admiralty under the Earl of Northbrook, recommending the constitution of the Royal Corps of Constructors, and to the increasing duties and responsibilities of the professional officers at the Admiralty and dockyards. In introducing this subject I make no reflection on the Board of Admiralty or on Sir William White. The faults which I shall endeavour to point out are not of recent date. They are more or less inherent in any system which must be administered under rigid rules. To Sir William White the highest praise is due. A noble fleet has been constructed for the Navy under his direction, and to his ability the highest testimony is borne by the leading men of his own profession, abroad as well as at home.

Turning to the general question, it is the settled policy of the country that the British Navy should be maintained at such a standard of strength as will secure the integrity of the Empire, and adequately protect our lines of communication across the ocean. The number of men voted for the Navy has been doubled since I first entered Parliament, while the sum voted for new construction in the last Estimates prepared by Lord Goschen was no less than £8,460,000. There are some who think that our expenditure, large as it is, scarcely suffices for our needs. When, however, we compare the shipbuilding Votes of our own Navy with those of France and Russia, and note the fact that, taken together, the combined expenditure of the two Powers is considerably less than that incurred for the British Navy; and if we further take into view that shipbuilding is more costly elsewhere than with us, it seems a clear duty, before adding to Estimates, to secure the most effective application of the vast sums which the wise liberality of Parliament has already placed in the hands of the Admiralty.

In the department of construction all depends on the scientific attainments of the naval architect and the practical knowledge and experience of the shipbuilder. The professional work for the British Navy requires a large body of officers. It has been the policy of the Government to recruit for this service from the more promising students at the dockyard schools, and to train them at the public expense. The training is admirable. The positions opened to these highly-trained men, more especially on first entering the service, long remained unsatisfactory. The necessity for an improvement in the status of the constructive branch was brought before Lord Northbrook by Sir Houston Stewart, who was for many years an able and popular Controller of the Navy. On his advice a Departmental Committee was appointed, over which, as Civil Lord of the Admiralty, I had the honour to preside. My colleagues were the late Sir Geoffrey Hornby, Mr. George Rendell, and Sir Nathaniel Barnaby. The leading witness was Sir William White.

Following, as we so often do in matters naval, the lead taken by France, a Royal School of Naval Architects had been established in 1864 at South Kensington. The school was subsequently transferred to the Naval College at Greenwich. The English training was in no respect inferior to the French. On the practical side it was perhaps superior. We had failed, as I have said, to provide suitable positions for our highly-trained men. On completing an elaborate course of professional study, the only position open to the students was that of an established workman, with the prospect of an early appointment as a supplementary dockyard draughtsman. In France, on the completion of their course, the students at once become junior officers of the Génie Maritime. Sir Houston Stewart recommended an organisation for the British Navy similar to that established in France. This scheme was approved by the Committee. The result was the constitution of the present Royal Corps of Constructors. The new organisation substantially improved the position of the junior officers. It was more difficult to deal with the superior ranks, and quite impossible to provide for special cases under fixed rules. I need not trouble your Lordships by going through the list in detail. It is sufficient to say that in the case of the Royal Corps of Constructors, as indeed in all branches of the public service, we find a tendency to employ large numbers, while there are but few valuable appointments.

The Corps of Constructors, like every other properly organised body, should be under a head whose superior authority is fully acknowledged. The chief should be supported by a stronger staff, under more direct responsibility to the country than at present. To Sir William White's subordinates the opportunity is too rarely given of making a name by professional ability and exertion. In the public service honours are coveted even more than pecuniary rewards. The C.B. has been given to three members of the clerical staff of the Secretary's Department at the Admiralty. No such mark of distinction has been given to any officers serving under Sir William White, whether at the Admiralty or the dockyards. It seems hardly consistent that the skill and ingenuity required to design and build a first-class battleship should be less rewarded than the performance, however efficient, of administrative duties. The Admiralty alone can judge as to the claims of individuals to an increase of emoluments, cr to honorary rewards. This, however, is certain, that many members of the Corps of Constructors—and not rarely the ablest — leave the public service. To give only a few examples. The well-known shipbuilding yard of Clydebank is under the management of Mr. Luke; the Barrow yard of the Vickers-Maxim Company is under Mr. Dnnn, from whose designs a most powerful battleship has recently been built for Japan; the Armstrong shipbuilding yard is under Mr. Watts, whose cruisers, in the opinion of some authorities, have not their match in any navy; the yard at

Fairfield is under Professor Elgar, who gave up the appointment of Director of Dockyards in order to take the management. To this list I might add Mr. Biles, Professor at the Glasgow University and in large and lucrative practice as a consulting naval architect. All these gentlemen are in receipt of emoluments of from £3,000 to £4,000 a year upwards. Lastly, we have the cases of Sir Edward Reed and Sir William White, both of whom had left the Admiralty to take more advantageous positions and were brought back not without difficulty to fill the post of Director of Naval Construction. When we have to deal with the employment of labour and the economical use of materials on a vast scale, and with designing work requiring talent of a high order, the wide contrast between the practice of our private employers and the cast-iron rules of the Treasury gives occasion for very grave reflection.

The condition of things which obtains to-day differs little from that described in the Memorandum which formed the basis of the reference to the Committee on Constructors. Sir Houston Stewart objected that—

> "No proper provision was made for men educated at the Naval College. Year by year their numbers increased, and no permanent positions were open to them of the character for which their training specially fitted them. There was consequently a great amount of dissatisfaction, and a large proportion quitted the Admiralty service as soon as possible."

The temptation offered to men of the highest qualifications must always exist, but it should be possible to reduce its influence. In the constructive branch at the Admiralty, in so far as it is known to the public at large, responsibility seems unduly centralised. The Royal yacht has been a conspicuous instance. The want of stability when first put into water was the result of carelessness in matters of detail, for which those subordinate to the Director of Naval Construction should have been responsible. But Sir William White accepted the entire responsibility. It was chivalrous. It has brought out the more strongly our undue dependence on a single officer. In dealing with a vast expenditure of thirteen millions sterling on shipbuilding, repairs, and maintenance, it is clearly wrong that the Director of Construction should bear all the blame for failure and receive all the credit for success. The country should have an assurance that he has around him a staff able to share in his responsibility, and qualified for promotion to the highest posts. This is the conclusion to which I hope I have brought your Lordships. It is, perhaps, desirable to impress these views on the Treasury even more than on the Board of Admiralty.

It is an obvious remark that conditions which have been gradually brought about cannot be suddenly changed. To surround and support the Director of Construction with a staff in the position formerly held by the members of the Council of Naval Construction must be the work of time. High appointments should clearly be the reward of approved merit. In dealing with that difficult branch of their administration, to which I have called attention, I would respectfully urge that the Admiralty should be allowed by the Treasury a free hand to do what is best for the public advantage.

*THE FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (The Earl of SELBORNE): My Lords, the noble Lord who has just sat down has, even in the presence of such high authorities as I see around me, a very particular qualification for bringing this subject under the notice of the House, for, as he himself has told you, he was the chairman of the Committee upon whose Report and recommendation the Office of Naval Construction and the Royal Corps of Naval Constructors were constituted. I do not think it is possible to exaggerate the importance of this branch of Admiralty work. The Controller's department is, I think, the chief department at the Admiralty, and in the Controller's department the branch under the Director of Naval Construction is the most important. Consequently, the organisation and working and the future prospects of this branch of Admiralty work must always be a matter of constant anxiety to any First Lord or any Board of Admiralty.

Before touching briefly on the large principles which the noble Lord has raised, perhaps he will allow me to follow him in the historical retrospect which he sketched out, and to point out that in one or two respects, no doubt inadvertently, he has slightly misrepresented the exact position of affairs. For instance, the noble Lord laid considerable stress upon the fact that the

Admiralty had lost many—I think the word he used was "many"—of the more promising naval constructors because the prospects open to them in the Admiralty yards are not so favourable as, and are not a sufficient counter-attraction to, the prospects offered by the private yards. I do not profess to have examined at length into the position of affairs that obtained in this respect before the year 1883, which was the year in which the Committee appointed by Lord Northbrook, and of which the noble Lord was chairman, sat; but I find that since that year — the year the Royal Corps of Constructors was constituted — only four naval constructors have left the Admiralty yards for engagements in private yards before they reached their proper term of pension. One of the four was Mr. Watts, who succeeded Sir William (then Mr.) White at the Elswick Works when he left to join the Admiralty, and another was a gentleman whom Mr. Watts took with him. Besides those four there was Mr. Dunn, who, as the noble Lord stated, joined the Vickers-Maxim Works; but he retired in the ordinary course at the age of 60 with a pension, and then took, as he was entitled to do, this private employment.

I do not think, therefore, that it is quite accurate for the noble Lord to say that the Admiralty has lost in recent years the services of many of its more promising young constructors; and I attribute the fact that on the whole the national service has proved sufficiently attractive to these gentlemen mainly to the labours of the Committee over which the noble Lord so ably presided. Before that Committee sat there was only one avenue through which appointments could be obtained in the construction branch of the Admiralty, and that was through an apprenticeship in the Royal dockyards. Since that time there have been three separate avenues established, and the career has always been open to private individuals who had the necessary training and could pass the examination. The corps now consists of seventy-seven members, all graduated, as is the traditional habit with any body of public servants, in rank and salaries.

It is perfectly true that in the Royal Corps of Constructors, as in the public service generally, young men of special merit cannot be offered the special prizes that private employers offer. Every officer in the public service has to appear in the Estimates with a definite status and a definite salary, and it is no more in my power than it is in the power of the head of any other Department to single out A or B and give him special inducements to remain, whether in the shape of bonuses or an increase of salary. Every man is obliged to work up in his grade, and all that the head of the Department can do is to give in these cases special and speedy promotion. But that on the whole the service has not proved unattractive is, I think, shown by the fact that, with all the inducements which the private yards can offer, only four have left the Admiralty service during the last seventeen years before they had reached a pensionable age. In another respect, also, I think I can correct a slight inaccuracy on the part of the noble Lord. He said, I think, that, with the exception of Sir William White, no members of this corps had received any recognition in the shape of an honour, while the Secretary's branch of the Admiralty had received several such rewards. That is not quite the case. Mr. Stainer, the civil assistant to the Admiral Superintendent of Portsmouth Dockyard, received the honour of a C.B. in 1897.

The noble Lord, after sketching the history of the construction department of the Admiralty, proceeded to draw the moral that that department was unduly centralised, and had more work than its present staff could properly perform, and he ascribed that state of affairs to the unsympathetic reception which the proposals of the Admiralty met with at the Treasury. I presume that all First Lords of the Admiralty—I am speaking in the presence of three noble Lords who have held that position—have felt that they could very much improve the Treasury; but in this case it would be most unfair, if there is any deficiency in staff or over-centralisation in the Department, to lay the blame at the door of the Treasury. I speak in the presence of Lord Goschen, whom I have only just had the honour of succeeding at the Admiralty, and I am sure my noble friend will agree with me when I say that up to the time of his leaving the office all the proposals which were put forward by the Director of Naval Construction, either as to an increase in the number of his staff or an improvement in the position of individual members of the corps, had been finally adopted by the Board and sanctioned by the Treasury. Therefore it would be strictly inaccurate and unfair to lay at the door of the Treasury any blame for deficiencies in this Department, if deficiencies there be.

I cannot pass over without notice the noble Lord's allusion to the accident to the Royal yacht. There is nothing new to be said about it; the whole of the facts are well known. It is a matter of great anxiety and concern, to nobody more than to Sir William White. No man less deserved that such an accident should have occurred in the middle of his great career and public service. What the noble Lord who introduced this subject said as to the reputation of Sir William White was in no sense exaggerated. The services he has rendered to this country can only be described in the words "very great," and it is indeed unfortunate that, out of the 220 ships which up to the beginning of last year had been designed, the only one in which any error in calculation existed was the one most calculated to draw public attention to it.

I am afraid I have detained your Lordships at undue length, but I cannot sit down without dealing with what is really the gist of the observations which the noble Lord addressed to the House. His reason for bringing the question forward was his fear that the Director of Naval Construction is overburdened with work, and that his department is too centralised. I am the last person in the world to say there cannot be any over-centralisation at the Admiralty. It is one of the great difficulties that we have to endeavour to fight against in all our public Departments. You cannot have the advantages of a system without the disadvantages. The great advantage in our democratic system with respect to these great Services is that the public interest is so keen that it gives an unfeigned support to any Government which endeavours to maintain the Services in a proper state of efficiency. But there follows the inevitable thirst for information from Parliament—a thirst for information that requires an answer to be ready on every conceivable question of detail. That must necessarily tend to centralisation, however much you may fight against it. If you have to have in a pigeon-hole from which you can draw it at a day's notice the answer to any question which may be asked in Parliament, the tendency of that pressure is towards centralisation.

Again, our system requires naturally and properly very strict financial control. The stricter and more rigid the financial control, the more difficult it is for the Minister to decentralise. If responsibility for every penny spent is centred in the head of the Department or one of his principal officers the work of devolving authority throughout the branches of a Department scattered all over the world becomes well-nigh impossible. At the same time I recognise that it is the duty of the head of any Department like the Admiralty to fight constantly against this tendency and to endeavour to increase devolution and decentralisation. This I shall always strive to the utmost to do. Also I am not prepared to say that the present staff of the Director of Naval Construction is sufficient for all the work that is thrown upon him. At present the Director has twenty-nine assistants in the Admiralty, but the Vote for construction is constantly increasing and shows no tendency to diminish, nor am I prepared to say that it ought.

The noble Lord mentioned incidentally that in recent years our Vote for construction had been greater than the Vote for construction of France and Russia combined. That is so. The House may be interested to learn that in the five years that end on 31st March, I calculate roughly that the money spent on construction in this country would have exceeded the money spent on construction in France and Russia combined by about £4,300,000. I do not say that that is too much, or that it is alone a test of whether all that should be done has been done. Many other things have to be taken into consideration in addition to expenditure of money, but at all events it is an indication that we have not fallen behind in our construction to the degree that some people would have the country believe. All that, of course, must increase the work of the Constructor and his assistants. Therefore I am not prepared to dispute the noble Lord's general contention, that as the work increases so also must the staff. The noble Lord says it is very important that the staff in this department of the Admiralty should be able to continue the work from administration to administration and from generation to generation without depending entirely on the genius of one man, who in the ordinary circumstances of affairs could not be permanent. I entirely agree with him.

It is absolutely necessary that provision should be made for the continuation of the work, and you cannot choose for the position of Director of Naval Construction a public servant solely on the grounds that he has honestly and laboriously for many years served his country. You want more than a man well trained and of the highest qualities and devotion to the public service. You want a man with something like genius, or at any rate a spark of genius. The designing of a battleship is one of the greatest efforts of human imagination, as well as a triumph of mechanical education and of mathematical knowledge. If the Royal Corps of Constructors at any time is unable to furnish a man with qualifications sufficient for so great a post, then in my opinion the Board ought not to be limited to that body for their selection. It is better that a man of superior intellect and higher professional qualifications should be taken from outside the public service rather than a man of lower qualifications from inside. What we should prefer would be that the corps should be so constituted and should receive such a succession of promising young constructors from the different sources of supply that it should in course of time become self-contained. The importance of the subject must be my excuse for having gone on beyond the limits that I had laid down for myself. I can only thank the noble Lord for bringing the question before the House, and assure him that I believe matters have certainly improved upon the state which he found before his Committee sat, and that the work he did has helped forward a final solution.

NAVAL MANŒUVRES AND MERCHANT SHIPPING.

LORD MUSKERRY: My Lords, I beg to ask His Majesty's Government whether in April of last year the Merchant Service Guild drew attention to the dangers to merchant shipping caused by naval ships manœuvring at night time without lights; whether this organisation was then assured by the Admiralty that the greatest care is taken on the occasions in question to avoid accident; whether in the following July, H.M.S. "Trafalgar," steaming without lights, collided with the passenger steamer "King Orry"; and, if so, whether the Admiralty have taken any further steps in averting the appalling loss of life which may at any time arise through the practice referred to.

*THE EARL OF SELBORNE: The noble Lord asks me whether in April of last year the Merchant Service Guild drew attention to the dangers to merchant shipping caused by naval ships manœuvring at night time without lights. I am informed that the Admiralty had no communication of any sort with this body before October of last year.† The noble Lord's second question was whether this organisation was then assured by the Admiralty that the greatest care is taken on the occasions in question to avoid accident. As there was no communication at that time, of course the Admiralty could not have given this assurance. If there had been, the Admiralty would certainly have done so, because under all circumstances the greatest care is taken when His Majesty's ships have to manœuvre without lights to avoid accidents. The third question which the noble Lord asked was whether in the following July H.M.S. "Trafalgar," steaming without lights, collided with the passenger steamer "King Orry"; and, if so, whether the Admiralty have taken any further steps in averting the appalling loss of life which may at any time arise through the practice referred to. So far as I can gather, there has never been any other occasion on which any one of His Majesty's ships when navigating without lights has ever collided with another ship; and as on this occasion, owing to the skill of the officers in command, both of the "Trafalgar" and the passenger steamer, the collision that took place was very slight and no loss of life occurred, I am not prepared to admit that the risk is a serious one in any degree. This being so, I cannot consent to take any steps that would hinder the practice of the Navy in evolutions which are absolutely necessary for a proper training for war.

ARMY AMBULANCE WAGONS AND HOSPITAL TENTS.

LORD RIBBLESDALE: My Lords, I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether, in view of the time which must elapse before any conclusions can be arrived at upon the larger questions raised by the suggestions in Part IV. of the Report of the Royal Commission upon the care and treatment of the sick and wounded in the South African campaign, he can give the House an assurance that such matters as improvement in ambulance wagons and hospital tents referred to therein have already received the attention of the War Office. As your Lordships are aware, Part IV. of the Report concerns itself with suggestions with a view of remedying defects, and recommends the appointment at some early convenient time of a Departmental or other Committee of experts to inquire into and report upon the steps necessary to be taken. The two points in the list of suggested reforms to which my question refers are the improvement of the existing ambulance wagons and the selection and employment of the form of hospital tents best suited for the reception of sick and wounded in a campaign.

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† See correction, 1st March.

I hope that in putting this question I shall not interfere in any way with the process of digestion and assimilation which we were told the other night was needed before the Secretary of State could take any step of the kind recommended by the Commission. We must all recognise, if what I have called the larger questions raised by the suggestions in Part IV. of the Report—which I take to be from No. 1 to No. 5 on page 69—are to be the basis of the reference to the Committee or Commission which is likely to be appointed, that that would involve a considerable reconstruction of the whole of our Army medical system, both in time of peace and of war. That, I admit, is a very large order, though I think everyone who has read the evidence given before the Hospital Commission and their Report must admit that such reconstruction is very desirable. However, I am perfectly willing to rest content with the promise which was given in another place that on the major points there will be a thorough investigation. But although I quite agree that, grammatically, the two points in my question are governed by the first paragraph of Part IV., and so are included in the subject-matter which the Commissioners suggest an expert Committee should inquire into and report upon, I think that so much ground has been cleared upon those two points by the evidence given

before the Hospital Commission, and by the actual experience of the Commission, that the Government might do something to effect an improvement so far as ambulance wagons and hospital tents are concerned without further delay. The Commissioners reported—

"With regard to the bearer companies, we are not satisfied with the ambulance wagons which are now being supplied to them. We have tried these wagons. We found them very heavy, requiring a large number of mules to draw them, and very jolty and uncomfortable. The type of wagon used appears not to have been materially changed or improved upon for many years. We cannot help thinking that this type of ambulance could be and should be improved."

With regard to tents, the Commissioners say—

"We saw, during our journeys in South Africa, some other tents which appeared to us to be superior to the ordinary marquee-tents. For instance, we think that the tortoise-tent, a well-known type, is better for a war like the present, though not suited to places like India."

The Commissioners then commend the E. P. Indian tent, and go on to say—

"Another tent which we also observed used to good purpose, especially for enteric fever patients, was the ordinary Ordnance Store tent."

The early part of the year—a dangerous time for enteric fever—has arrived; and it would be satisfactory to know that in regard to these matters at least something has already been done by the War Office.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Lord RAGLAN): My Lords, I am glad to be able to assure the noble Lord that the two points which he mentioned have already received, and will continue to receive, the closest attention of the War Office. Changes are in contemplation in the pattern both of the ambulances and of the hospital tents, and experiments are now being made. But it is extremely difficult to find the ideal tent or the ideal wagon; and at present it is undesirable to put a stop to inquiry and experiment. Otherwise we might order a large number of wagons and tents in haste and repent at leisure, for we might find ourselves saddled with articles not only undesirable in themselves, but which, from their numbers and cost, might prevent more efficient appliances being supplied.

The War Office is most anxious to benefit by the experience of officers who have been in South Africa, some of whom are not yet home; but I may inform the noble Lord that up to the present the following steps have been taken:—In July last a new pattern ambulance was built to the specification of the Royal Army Medical Corps and was sent down to Aldershot for experiment and report. This wagon is 1 cwt. lighter than the old pattern, and it carries more men. The old pattern carried twelve men seated, or four seated and two on stretchers. The new pattern carries fourteen seated, or six seated and four on stretchers. We have obtained as much imformation as possible about the ambulances in use in foreign armies, especially about the Austrian ambulance, of which many favourable reports have been received. This type has been sent to Aldershot for report, and will then be sent to Woolwich, where the officials will confer with officers of the Royal Army Medical Corps and of the transport department who have recently returned from South Africa. The question of tents, as the noble Lord knows, is much complicated by the question of climate. The tortoise-tents were at first reported on very favourably from South Africa; but recent reports have not been quite so good. It is not the ideal tent in bad weather; and another, more satisfactory, seems to have been found. Trials of many kinds of tents were made last summer and autumn. Although there is unusual pressure at the War Office, no time will be lost in remedying any defects which can be dealt with immediately.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: My Lords, I think we all agree that there is no fault to find with regard to the good intentions expressed on behalf of the War Office. But I think we have a right to know whether anything has already been done to supplement the present old-fashioned ambulance wagons in use in South Africa. Have any wagons of a better type, such as those used by the voluntary hospitals, been sent out? Such steps would not only be for the comfort of the wounded, but would be extremely valuable from the point of view of the experiments which are being conducted, and which could be better carried out in South Africa than at Aldershot. As to tents, the Commissioners say—

> "We think that the tortoise-tent, a well-known type, is better for a war like the present, though not suited to places like India. A better tent still for many purposes is the 'E.P.' Indian tent which we saw at Standerton and Charlestown, although it is somewhat heavy. Another tent which we also observed used to good purpose, especially for enteric fever patients, was the ordinary Ordnance Store tent."

Have steps been taken to have a large supply of the different kinds of tents, mentioned by the Commissioners in their Report, for the present purposes of the war? It is natural that it should be thought desirable, if it is necessary to supplement the number of tents already in South Africa, that the Government should supplement them by the provision of a large number of tents of the kind indicated by the Commission appointed by the Government.

LORD RAGLAN: So far as I gather from their Report, the Commissioners do not say that a large number of supplementary tents are required in South Africa, but they recommend that a Committee should be appointed to choose a pattern of tent for the future.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: My question is, Has a further quantity of tents been sent out or not, and have steps been taken to send to South Africa supplementary ambulance wagons likely to be more comfortable than those at present in use?

LORD RAGLAN: Experiments are being made as to the best sort of tent. I am not aware that supplementary tents are required, but I will inquire.

House adjourned at half-past Five of the clock, till To-morrow, half-past Ten of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Thursday, 28th February, 1901

One other Member took and subscribed the Oath.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILL PETITIONS [Lords] (STANDING ORDERS NOT COMPLIED WITH).

MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of

Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the Petitions for the following Bills, originating in the Lords, the Standing Orders have not been complied with, viz. :—

Chester Corporation Tramways.
South Lancashire Tramways.
Watford and District Tramways.
Wigan Corporation Tramways.

Ordered, That the Report be referred to the Select Committee on Standing Orders.

PRIVATE BILL PETITIONS (STANDING ORDERS NOT COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the Petition for the following Bill, the Standing Orders have not been complied with, viz. :—

London County Council (Tramways and Street Widenings).

Ordered, That the Report be referred to the Select Committee on Standing Orders.

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS (NO STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, no Standing Orders are applicable, viz. :—

Thames and Severn Provisional Order Bill.

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time To-morrow.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL (TRAMWAYS AND STREET WIDENINGS).

Petition for Bill; referred to the Select Committee on Standing Orders.

METROPOLITAN POLICE PROVISIONAL ORDER.

Bill to confirm a Provisional Order made by one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State under the Metropolitan Police Act, 1886, and the Metropolitan Police Courts Act, 1897, relating to lands in the parishes of Erith; Banstead; St. John, Horselydown; St. Leonard, Shoreditch; Clapham; and Greenwich, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Jesse Collings and Mr. Secretary Ritchie.

METROPOLITAN POLICE PROVISIONAL ORDER BILL.

"To confirm a Provisional Order made by one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State under the Metropolitan Police Act, 1886, and the Metropolitan Police Courts Act, 1897, relating to lands in the parishes of Erith; Banstead; St. John, Horselydown; St. Leonard, Shoreditch; Clapham; and Greenwich," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 73.]

PETITIONS.

BEER BILL.

Petition from Sandhurst, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (HIGHER GRADE AND EVENING CONTINUATION SCHOOLS).

Petitions for alteration of Law, from Cardiff; Colne; Queensbury; Birmingham; Widnes; Gateshead; and Drighlington; to lie upon the Table.

FRANCHISE AND REMOVAL OF WOMEN'S DISABILITIES BILL.

Petition from London, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

POOR LAW OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1896.

Petitions for alteration of Law, from Barnet; Wimborne and Cranborne; Aberavon; and Martley; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Partick; and Colchester; to lie upon the Table.

SUNDAY CLOSING (MONMOUTHSHIRE).

Petition from Colchester, for alteration of law; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

COUNTY COURTS, ENGLAND (FEES).

Copy presented, of Treasury Order, dated 22nd February, 1901, regulating Court Fees in County Courts [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

MILITARY WORKS ACTS, 1897 AND 1899.

Account presented, for the period ended 31st March, 1900, together with the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 66.]

BOARD OF TRADE (LABOUR DEPARTMENT).

Copy presented, of Seventh Annual Abstract of Labour Statistics of the United Kingdom, 1899–1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

PIERS AND HARBOURS (PROVISIONAL ORDERS).

Copy presented, of Report by the Board of Trade of their Proceedings under the General Pier and Harbour Act, 1861, and the General Pier and Harbour Act (1861) Amendment Act [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 67.]

FOREIGN JURISDICTION ACT, 1890.

Copy presented, of Order in Council, dated 9th February, 1901, entitled the Persia (Regulations) Order in Council, 1901 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION ACT, 1889.

Copies presented, of Minutes sanctioning the subjects to be taught under Clause 8 of the Technical Instruction Act, 1889, for the following counties and borough :—

County of the Isle of Wight (Fourth Minute), dated 7th December, 1900;
County of the Soke of Peterborough (Eighth Minute), dated 18th January, 1901;
County Borough of Oldham (Eighth Minute), dated 25th January, 1901

[by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

ARMY (ORDNANCE FACTORIES) SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE, 1900-1901).

Copy presented, of Estimate of the Further Amount required during the year ending 31st March, 1901, to defray the expense of the Ordnance Factories [by Command]; referred to the Committee of Supply, and to be printed. [No. 65.]

ARMY (MEMORANDUM ON ESTIMATES).

Copy presented, of Memorandum of the Secretary of State relating to the Army Estimates of 1901–2 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

EAST INDIA (NORTH-WEST FRONTIER).

Copy presented, of Papers regarding British relations with the neighbouring Tribes on the North-West Frontier of India and Punjab Frontier Administration [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

PRISONS (SCOTLAND).

Copy presented, of Rule made by the Secretary for Scotland appointing the Police Cells at Haddington to be a legal Prison for the detention of untried prisoners for a period not exceeding fourteen days before or during trial, and of convicted prisoners for a period not exceeding seven days from the date of conviction [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

PRISONS (SCOTLAND) DIETARIES.

Copy presented, of Rules made by the Secretary for Scotland under the Prisons (Scotland) Act, 1877, establishing new rates of Dietaries for the several classes of prisoners [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

LOCAL REGISTRATION OF TITLE (IRELAND) ACT, 1891, AND SMALL DWELLINGS ACQUISITION ACT, 1899 (RULES).

Copy presented, of Rules made by the Judge nominated as an additional Land Judge for the purposes of the Local Registration of Title (Ireland) Act, 1891, with the approval of the Lord Chancellor [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS, 1901-1902 (VOTE ON ACCOUNT).

Estimate presented, showing the several Services for which a Vote on Account is required for the year ending 31st March, 1902 [by Command];

Referred to the Committee of Supply, and to be printed. [No. 68.]

ALLOTMENTS (SCOTLAND).

Return ordered, "of all Lands acquired in Scotland for Allotments under the Allotments (Scotland) Act, 1892, and the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1894, showing in how many cases requisitions by the Parish Council to the County Council for the compulsory acquisition of Land for Allotments have been made, and with what result.

Parish and county.	Number of Allotments granted, giving particulars of acreage and rental.	Number of cases where Allotments refused.

—(*Mr. Eugene Wason.*)

PAUPERISM (ENGLAND AND WALES) (MONTHLY STATEMENTS).

Return ordered, "of Statements for each month of the year 1901 of the number of paupers (except lunatics in county and borough asylums, registered hospitals and licensed houses, and vagrants) in receipt of relief in England and Wales (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 135, of Session 1900)."—(*Mr. Grant Lawson.*)

QUESTIONS.

SOUTH AFRICA—INQUIRY INTO THE CONDUCT OF THE WAR.

*MR. LOYD (Berkshire, Abingdon): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, in the event of a general public inquiry into the whole course and conduct of the war in South Africa being granted, the Government will place any limit to the cost or duration of such an inquiry; and would such a general public inquiry be in lieu of, or in addition to, the expert military inquiry necessary to ascertain and clearly define the lessons of the war.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): As the hon. Member is aware, we have promised a general inquiry, and the cost of the inquiry and its duration must depend on the discretion and competence of the body to whom inquiry is entrusted. The Government can lay down no limitation as to matter of time. As to the last paragraph in the question, of course the lessons of the war are constantly studied by the military authorities of the War Office.

MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL (Oldham): May I ask whether, and if so when, the House will be informed of the circumstances attending the surrender at Nicholson's Nek and other places, and of the opinion of the Commander-in-Chief thereon?

*MR. SPEAKER: That hardly arises out of the question on the Paper.

GOVERNMENT'S KNOWLEDGE BEFORE THE WAR OF ALLIANCE BETWEEN THE TWO REPUBLICS.

MR. C. P. SCOTT (Lancashire, Leigh): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, before the month of September, 1899, the Government were in possession of information that, in the event of war breaking out with the Transvaal, the Orange Free State would take the side of the sister Republic, and that this country would have to face the combined forces of the two States; and, if not, at what period this information reached them.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not quite know what the hon. Gentleman means by this question. There was no treaty that I am aware of between the Orange Free State and the Transvaal Republic of an offensive character.

MR. C. P. SCOTT: I referred to the Report, a copy of which has within the last few days been placed on the Library, issued by the Intelligence Department of the War Office about four months before the war began, in which it is stated that——

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! Notice had better be given of the question.

JAMESON RAID INDEMNITY—COUNTER-CLAIM OF THE CHARTERED COMPANY.

MR. ALFRED DAVIES (Carmarthen Boroughs): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he will lay upon the Table of the House evidence showing that the Chartered Company had a claim of £5 to every £1 claimed by the late Transvaal Government for the Jameson raid.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.): No, Sir; I have not received any such claim from the Chartered Company.

MR. ALFRED DAVIES: Will the right hon. Gentleman consider this question further, as the statement was made in the House on his behalf by the Chancellor of the Exchequer?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: No, Sir. I do not think that my right hon. friend used the words which are repeated in the question. In any case I can only deal with the claim if made by the company in question. No such claim has been made.

MR. ALFRED DAVIES: Will the right hon. Gentleman tell us what are the words he refers to?

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order!

CAPE TOWN DOCK POLICE—GEORGE KERR'S ESTATE.

MR. HAYDEN (Roscommon, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention has been directed to the case of the late George Kerr, a member of the dock police of Cape Town, who died early last year, and is believed to have left property undisposed of in Cape Town; whether he is aware that the police authorities at Cape Town realised the property referred to and sent to his relatives in Ireland as the result a sum of about £19; and can he state by what right the police authorities so acted, and whether there is now any means of ascertaining if the sum mentioned represented the whole value of the estate.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I have no information on the matter, which appears to be one entirely for the consideration and decision of the Cape Government.

SOUTH AFRICAN COMMISSIONS.

MR. JOHN ELLIS (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies what portions of the Vote of £7,800, under Subhead O 1 of Vote for Colonial Services, in Supplementary Estimates is due to the Transvaal Concessions, the Land Settlement, and the Transvaal Financial Commissions respectively, and when the House may expect to be in possession of the Reports of these three Commissions or missions of inquiry.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: (1) The figures are as follows: Transvaal Concessions, £3,500; Land Settlement Commission, £2,650; Transvaal Financial Commission, £1,650—total £7,800. (2) I cannot say until I have received and considered them.

MR. JOHN ELLIS: Is the Land Settlement Commission proceeding?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: Yes; it is considering its Report. As I stated the other day, the evidence has not yet reached me.

THE PAARDEBERG ARMISTICE.

MR. YERBURGH (Chester): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can inform the House what general granted the armistice of twenty-four hours to General Cronje, which Lord Roberts on his arrival at Paardeberg, as he states in his despatch of the 28th February, 1900, immediately revoked on the ground that the request for an armistice was obviously only an expedient to gain time for reinforcements to arrive.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): The paragraph referred to is a little misleading. The facts are as follows: On the morning of the 19th February a message arrived from General Cronje asking for an armistice for twenty-four hours to enable him to bury his dead and send out his wounded. Lord Kitchener, as chief of the staff, replied to the message in the name of the senior officer at Paardeberg—Lieutenant-General French—who was with the cavalry some little distance off, to the effect that the message was being sent to the Field Marshal commanding, and that, pending his reply, Cronje's laager would not be attacked. Lord

Roberts received the message about 10 a.m. the same day, on his arrival at Paardeberg, and gave orders that the armistice could not be granted for the reason given in the despatch.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): May I ask the right hon. Gentleman whether when Lord Kitchener replied he was actually in command of the British army on that day at Paardeberg?

MR. BRODRICK: No, Sir; the actual control was in the hands of the senior general officer, who, at that moment, by local rank, was not Lord Kitchener. Lord Kitchener was empowered by Lord Roberts to offer advice if he thought it necessary, and, if he offered such advice, no doubt it was taken by the senior officer on the spot.

MR. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.): What was the strength of Cronje's force as compared with the British?

[No answer was given.]

MILITARY COURTS OF INQUIRY.

MR. YERBURGH: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether an officer whose conduct forms the subject of a court of inquiry has the right or is afforded the opportunity of appearing in person before such court, and of calling witnesses in his defence; and whether officers of all ranks, against whom steps have been taken by the War Office in consequence of the finding of a court of inquiry before which they have not had the opportunity of appearing, have the right, whether on full or on half-pay, to demand a court-martial; and. if not, whether they have any, and, if so, what right of appeal.

MR. BRODRICK: The officer on whom a court of inquiry is held has the right and is afforded the opportunity of appearing before the court. The court of inquiry may report circumstances directly or indirectly affecting other officers, but in such cases the fact that they have not been called is considered in dealing with the finding of the court. No officer has a right of appeal to a court-martial, but to the Commander-in-Chief and the Sovereign, in accordance with Section 42 of the Army Act.

MR. COURTENAY WARNER (Staffordshire, Lichfield): May I ask if steps are being taken by the War Office to alter these rules in accordance with the promise given by the right hon. Gentleman and the First Lord of the Treasury the other day.

MR. BRODRICK: No promise was given as to the alteration of rules, but certain pledges were given as to the way in which officers were to be treated in certain cases, and these pledges will be adhered to.

MR. YERBURGH: What I would like to ask the right hon. Gentleman is, are all officers whose conduct may be the subject of a court of inquiry given the opportunity of appearing before the court?

MR. BRODRICK: It is impossible to assure the procedure to such a degree that, when the conduct of one officer is under consideration by a court of inquiry, no evidence may be by any chance brought forward which may affect some other officer who may not be present. But should any action be taken on such evidence, or on the report made on it, of course the fact of such officer not being present is taken into account.

MR. YERBURGH: I desire to ask the right hon. Gentleman whether where punishment is passed upon an officer in accordance with the result of a court of inquiry that officer is given as a matter of right the opportunity of having his case heard before sentence is passed upon him?

MR. BRODRICK: I think the hon. Member had better put his question down. I am quite aware of the case to which he refers, and I am prepared, at the proper time, to answer it, but I am not prepared to enter into a debate on this question in the form of a question and answer across the floor of the House. But I may state that the officer to whom the hon. Member refers had had an opportunity of making an explanation, and the substance of his explanation was well known to the officer who made the recommendation in regard to it.

COLONIAL TROOPS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask the

Secretary of State for War whether it is possible to state the number of men sent to South Africa by the Dominion of Canada, the Colony of New Zealand, and each of the six Australian Colonies respectively, and the number in each case who have completed their service and returned to the Colonies; also the number in the case of each of these Colonies now serving in South Africa.

Mr. BRODRICK: I fear I must ask the hon. Gentleman to postpone this question for a fortnight, in order to obtain the information.

REPORTED SURRENDER OF GENERAL BOTHA.

Mr. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy Burghs): Have the Government any official information as to the reported surrender of General Botha?

Mr. BRODRICK: No official information has been received.

LORD ROBERTS AND GENERAL BOTHA—FARM BURNING.

Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carnarvon, etc.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he will lay upon the Table of the House the correspondence between Lord Roberts and General Louis Botha in reference to the burning of farms in the vicinity of railways damaged by the Boers.

*Mr. BRODRICK: Yes, Sir.

PAY OF VOLUNTEER INFANTRYMEN IN SOUTH AFRICA.

Mr. RENWICK (Newcastle-on-Tyne): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War, having regard to the fact that the pay of the Imperial Yeomanry is now 5s. per day both for the newly enrolled members of that corps and for those who are already serving in South Africa, whether he will take into his favourable consideration an increase of pay to the artillery, engineer, and rifle Volunteers who are now serving in South Africa, and to the members of the Volunteer service companies which have recently been enrolled for active service, so as to place the members of these corps on an equal footing with those of the Imperial Yeomanry.

*Mr. BRODRICK: It would be impossible to place members of the Volunteer service companies on a different footing as regards pay from the Regular infantry with whom they are serving. We are endeavouring to relieve as many as possible of the Volunteers who went out to South Africa last year.

PENSIONS FOR SOLDIERS' WIDOWS.

Mr. SOARES (Devonshire, Barnstaple): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether, if a soldier on active service in South Africa dies of disease contracted during and incidental to such service, his widow is entitled to either a gratuity or a pension; and can he say when the Government propose to initiate a pension scheme for the widows of such men; and whether they will undertake to do so before making any grants to victorious generals.

*Mr. BRODRICK: Under existing regulations the widow of a soldier dying under the circumstances stated does not receive pension or gratuity from public funds. Under a scheme, which will shortly be issued, pensions will be given in such cases.

VOLUNTEERS AND THE IMPERIAL YEOMANRY.

Sir HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he can state approximately what was the contribution in men of the Volunteer Force to the first levy of the body styled Imperial Yeomanry, and what to the new levy, and how many came respectively from the Yeomanry Cavalry of Great Britain.

*Mr. BRODRICK: The number contributed to the first levy of the Imperial Yeomanry by the Yeomanry Cavalry was 1,898, and by the Volunteers 1,145. Corresponding figures for the second levy are not at present available.

WOODSTOCK HOSPITAL, CAPE TOWN.

Mr. ARTHUR STANLEY (Lancashire, Ormskirk): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether Woodstock Hospital, Cape Town, is still being used for enteric patients; and whether, in view of the smells which are acknowledged to exist at Woodstock, any steps have been taken to find another and more suitable site in the neighbourhood of Cape Town.

*THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE WAR OFFICE (Lord STANLEY, Lancashire, Westhoughton): The hos, pital is still being used for enteric patients. Many improvements have recently been made in the hospital, and the senior medical officer in charge now describes everything as satisfactory. The only change contemplated is the removal of the drainage outfall.

MILITIA OFFICERS' GRATUITIES.

DR. FARQUHARSON (Aberdeenshire, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether, considering the inconvenience and expense incurred by Militia officers now actually embodied and serving, he will grant them, on completion of a year's service, the gratuity of £100 now paid to officers whose regiment has been disembodied.

*LORD STANLEY: This question has been thoroughly considered. I am not prepared to alter the decision already arrived at.

VOLUNTEER CAMP REGULATIONS.

MR. GRAY (West Ham, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can state the conditions which will apply to Volunteer camps this year; and, in particular, whether fourteen days service in camp will be required, and whether the same rate of pay as last year will be allowed; and can he remove the doubts which arose last year as to the first and last day of the period in camp by stating what the War Office regards as a day.

*LORD STANLEY: An announcement with regard to this subject will be made very shortly.

SUB-LETTING OF GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS.

MR. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil): I beg to ask the Financial Secretary to the War Office whether he can now state the results of his investigations into the charges made against Messrs. Musgrave and Company, ironfounders, and Messrs. Wilson and Sons, tent and sail makers, both of Belfast, of having violated the conditions under which they held their contracts from the Government.

*LORD STANLEY: With regard to Messrs. Musgrave, the Department was misled by the firm in the reply given to the House on the 13th December, 1900, as regards sub-letting.† It has since been ascertained from personal inquiries made by the Director of Contracts that this firm did to a certain extent infringe the terms of their contract in respect of sub-letting, and they have been warned that this must not be repeated. With regard to Messrs. Wilson, the case has been further considered, but I can see no reason for altering the answer given to the hon. Member on the 13th December by my predecessor.

MR. KEIR HARDIE: Will a Commissioner be sent to Belfast to investigate the case against Messrs. Wilson, as was done in the case of Messrs. Musgrave?

*LORD STANLEY: The matter has been fully considered. I am afraid I cannot give any further answer.

IMPERIAL YEOMANRY—ACCOMMODATION FOR RECRUITS AT ALDERSHOT.

MR. JEFFREYS (Hampshire, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that the recruits for the Imperial Yeomanry who are sent to Aldershot find no proper barrack accommodation ready for them; whether rifles in some cases have not been issued to them for a fortnight; and whether, as under these circumstances it is difficult to drill the men, he will take steps to have proper arrangements made.

*MR. BRODRICK: The General Officer Commanding at Aldershot reports that there has naturally been considerable difficulty in accommodating, almost at a moment's notice, over 6,000 recruits who came there immediately on enrolment without any military organisation. This difficulty has been rendered greater by many of the men arriving unexpectedly after the authorised hours. As the barracks are temporarily occupied by more than the normal number, it has been necessary to provide trestle camp beds, but every man has been provided with a bed and plenty of bedding. As regards clothing, there has been no unnecessary delay, as every man has to be carefully fitted, more especially with boots. It is not true that men have been drilled in the snow unprovided with proper clothing or boots. Every man is provided with a warm jersey to wear under his khaki serge frock. As regards the rifles, all demands of the Commandant, Imperial Yeomanry, have been met without any hitch or delay. The Commander-in-Chief has sent General Mackinnon to Aldershot to take command, under Sir Redvers Buller, of the large body of Yeomanry now there. Arrangements have been made to cope with the difficulties, and drafts are being rapidly despatched to South Africa.

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† See *The Parliamentary Debates* [Fourth Series], Vol. lxxxviii., p. 678.

MR. JEFFREYS: Why send the men to Aldershot at all?

*MR. BRODRICK: Because it is the most convenient station at which to deal with them.

LANCASHIRE HUSSARS—ACCOMMODATION FOR RECRUITS AT ALDERSHOT.

MR. ARTHUR STANLEY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that forty-three men of the Lancashire Hussars, who had volunteered for service in South Africa, were ordered to join at Aldershot on the 4th of February last; that on their arrival there they found that no provision whatever had been made for them; that thirty-seven of them were at last put into a room which had only accommodation for twenty-three men; and that as no food was given to them they were dependent upon what they could buy for themselves; and whether any steps have been taken to prevent a recurrence of such mismanagement.

LORD STANLEY: The men arrived two hours after the hour laid down as the latest for receiving recruits. Thirty-five were put into a barrack room, a number not in excess of the winter occupation authorised for the room. There was no necessity for them to buy food.

PRICE OF IRISH HORSES.

COLONEL NOLAN (Galway, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if there is any objection to state for the year 1899 or the year 1898 the average price paid to dealers for Irish horses, and also the average price paid to farmers or non-dealers.

*LORD STANLEY: It would not be in the public interest to make these prices known.

ARMY CONTRACTS—SECRECY AS TO DETAILS.

COLONEL NOLAN: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether contracts for the conveyance of troops are kept secret; whether contracts for or the prices of arms, ammunition, clothing, medical comforts, tents, saddlery, food, and forage are kept secret; whether the prices given for Argentine horses is a secret; and can he say, where prices or contracts are secret, what machinery is used to prevent fraud, corruption, and waste.

LORD STANLEY: The prices paid under the contracts are not disclosed. The prices paid for Argentine horses have likewise, in the interest of the public, not been made known; but full particulars of all purchases, whether by contract or otherwise, are given to all officers concerned for the purpose of audit.

COLONEL NOLAN: The Financial Secretary has not answered the last part of the question, which is its main point.

LORD STANLEY: I think we can trust our officers to see that there is no fraud, corruption, or waste.

COLONEL NOLAN: Does the Secretary for War accept the responsibility for all this secrecy, seeing that millions of money are involved in these contracts?

[No answer was returned.]

FOURTH BATTALION BORDER REGIMENT—OFFICERS' PAY.

MAJOR BALFOUR (Christchurch): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that the officers' pay of the 4th Battalion Border Regiment, quartered at Youghal, which was due on 1st November, and which, by Article

276, Pay Warrant 1900, is ordered to be paid monthly in advance, was not issued by the paymaster till 10th December; and will he take steps to prevent the repetition of this breach of the Regulations.

LORD STANLEY: It appears that, owing to a misapprehension on the part of the officer commanding the battalion, the pay in question was issued in arrear instead of in advance. The Regulation on the subject is generally well known, and it does not appear necessary to issue further orders to meet what appears to be an isolated case.

GERMAN GUNS FOR THE BRITISH ARMY.

MR. WALFORD GREEN (Wednesbury): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the quick-firing field guns, purchased in Germany and issued to the 16th and 17th Brigade Divisions of the Royal Field Artillery stationed at Aldershot, have proved unsatisfactory; whether half of the guns issued have been returned disabled to Woolwich Arsenal; whether defects in the breech mechanism have been discovered; and whether the recoil has proved destructive to the gun carriages.

MR. BRODRICK: The guns in question have not proved unsatisfactory; they have been found, on the contrary, to shoot with remarkable accuracy. No defects have been discovered in the breech mechanism, nor has the recoil proved destructive to the carriages. The threads of some of the breech screws have become burred owing to the guns being used for drill purposes without drill carriages—a slight damage which can be repaired locally. Some of the axles of the gun carriages having cracked in travelling, the firm which supplied the batteries is replacing all the axles by axles of an improved pattern at its own expense. Fourteen guns have been returned to Woolwich for this purpose.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): Have any of the guns been used in South Africa; and, if so, will the right hon. Gentleman consider the desirability, with the view of finishing the war, of sending out a few competent German officers with them?

[No answer was given.]

ARMAMENTS OF VOLUNTEER ARTILLERY.

MR. DUNCAN (Yorkshire, W.R., Otley): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he is aware that some battalions of Volunteer Artillery have only guns of a pattern nearly forty years old, and if he can give any promise to issue to them, at an early date, guns of more modern design.

LORD STANLEY: It is intended, as was explained to the House last year, to re-arm the Volunteer Artillery. The heavy guns required for the batteries of position are now being manufactured. I cannot give the exact date on which new guns can be issued.

SECTION D RESERVE MEN.

*MR. M'CRAE (Edinburgh, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can state if the rule which exacts an extra year's service from Reservists who have completed twelve years service in the First Class Reserve also applies to those men who have enlisted under Section D Class to complete sixteen years; and whether Reservists at present serving in South Africa are being detained beyond the period of their engagement to serve for sixteen years.

LORD STANLEY: The answer to the first of the hon. Member's questions is in the affirmative. No man by reason of his serving abroad may be retained beyond one additional year.

*MR. M'CRAE: Is the noble Lord aware that complaints are coming from South Africa of men being detained beyond their agreed period of service?

LORD STANLEY: I am not aware. If they are complaining I think there must be a misunderstanding. They are liable to serve an extra year.

*MR. M'CRAE: Under what Army Order is that extra year made applicable to a man who has already done sixteen years service?

LORD STANLEY: I must ask for notice of that.

MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL FLEET RESERVE IN GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT.

LIEUT.-COL. LEE (Hampshire, Fareham): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether retired non-commissioned officers of the Royal Marines, or retired petty officers, Royal Navy, who are now in Government employment in any of the Naval establishments and who may join the Royal Fleet Reserve, will be granted the necessary leave to attend the annual trainings without loss of or prejudice to their positions in such Government employment.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER, Belfast, W.): Yes, Sir. This point is specially provided for in the Royal Fleet Reserve Regulations.

HIRE OF TRANSPORTS FOR THE CAPE.

*MR. ALFRED DAVIES: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he can explain why the Government did not exercise the powers in the subsidy contract with the steamship companies when war was imminent with the late Transvaal Government, and when the ultimatum had been issued and British territory invaded, by taking their fastest steamers for transports which were available, some of which have an average speed of twenty-one to twenty-two knots, and would have done the passage to Cape Town in twelve to fourteen days (the length of passage by ordinary steamers being sixteen days), instead of chartering at that time steamers many of which had an average speed of ten to twelve knots, and took twenty to twenty-eight days for the passage to Cape Town; and whether, having regard to the importance of the arrival of troops eight or twelve days earlier at that critical time, he can state why the following steamers were employed for carrying troops—namely, the "Jelunga," which took thirty-six days from Southampton to Durban; the "Harlech Castle," which took twenty-six days from Southampton to Cape Town; the "Manila," which took twenty-six days from Southampton to Cape Town; and the "Zibengla," which took twenty-eight days from Birkenhead to Cape Town.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: It is doubtful whether the Admiralty had power to take up subsidised ships for the purpose of transport, and in any case the Admiralty does not consider it desirable to make a demand upon the steamship companies which would clearly be at variance with the intention of both parties when entering into the contract. The intention of the Admiralty was to obtain the use of these vessels as armed cruisers, and not as transports in a non-maritime war. Many of the steamers on the Admiralty List, especially the Atlantic vessels of very high speed, are not suited for the purpose of Army transport, and would require extensive alterations and refitting to make them available for the purpose. When two of the Atlantic vessels were subsequently engaged (not under the Subsidy Agreements) they took eighteen and nineteen days respectively to reach Cape Town. They are quite unsuited for the conveyance of artillery (for which the first requisition was received) and for cavalry. The "Jelunga" was all ready fitted when requisition for the despatch of troops was received. It was necessary to send her *via* the Mediterranean and Suez Canal, as the Rifle Brigade, which was one of the regiments selected for South Africa, was stationed at Crete. With regard to the other vessels—looking to the necessity in every case of erecting special fittings, it was obviously necessary to take the most suitable ships actually in British ports, a necessity which, of course, limits choice. The "Harlech Castle" and "Manila" each lost four days on their passage through heavy weather. As there were only three weeks in which to prepare transport for 20,000 men, the ships that could be got at once had to be taken to enable it to be done, as it was.

*MR. ALFRED DAVIES: Were not some of the ships only fit to be broken up for old iron at the time they were hired?

[No answer was given.]

ROYAL MARINE ARTILLERY—DUTY FREE TOBACCO.

*MR. REGINALD LUCAS (Portsmouth): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether permission may be given to Royal Marine Artillery serving ashore to purchase their ship's tobacco duty free, as in the case of sailors and Marine Light Infantry.

*THE CIVIL LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. PRETYMAN, Suffolk, Woodbridge): The power of issuing tobacco free of duty is granted by the Customs Consolidation Act, 1876, sections 123 to 125, and applies to ships on service only. The regulations as to men being allowed to purchase tobacco free of duty apply equally to all belonging to H.M. ships (except coastguard when on shore), whether seamen, Royal Marine Artillery or Royal Marine Light Infantry. Neither men of the Royal Marine Artillery or Royal Marine Light Infantry are allowed the privilege when at their divisions in barracks.

FOREIGN WARSHIPS IN BRITISH DOCKS.

MR. BARTLEY (Islington, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether Japanese or other foreign war ships are now occupying and have recently occupied docks at Chatham and elsewhere, though at the same time His Majesty's ships are waiting to enter these docks for repairs; and whether, if this is correct, he can state by what authority foreign authorities use His Majesty's dockyards when these docks are urgently needed for the Navy, and whether the practice will be at once put an end to.

*MR. PRETYMAN: No Japanese or other foreign warship is now occupying any of the docks at the present time, but the Japanese cruiser "Iwate" was recently docked at Chatham. This is a courtesy that has been occasionally granted to Japanese and other foreign ships by the Admiralty. It is always arranged so as not to interfere with the docking of any of His Majesty's ships. I may mention that the Japanese recently extended the same courtesy to us by allowing the "Victorious" to be docked in Japan.

ROYAL VISIT TO THE COLONIES—PRESS ARRANGEMENTS.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether it is intended to exclude, with one exception, the correspondents of all the newspapers desiring to be represented on the occasion from the ships of war accompanying the Royal Mission to Australia; whether Sir Donald Mackenzie Wallace has been deputed to accompany the Duke of Cornwall and York as official reporter; and whether that gentleman will also represent *The Times*, which will thus enjoy privileges denied to the London press generally.

MR. KEIR HARDIE: At the same time, may I ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether, seeing that newspaper correspondents have been refused permission to sail in His Majesty's cruisers accompanying H.R.H. the Duke of York to Australia, and that the effect of this will be to prevent special correspondents reaching places at which His Royal Highness will call in time to send home descriptive reports, he will state if Sir Donald Mackenzie Wallace, a special representative of *The Times* newspaper, has been selected historian for the trip, and whether he will be prohibited from sending reports of the voyage to *The Times*, so that it may not have an advantage over other daily newspapers.

*MR. PRETYMAN: Sir Donald Mackenzie Wallace will accompany His Royal Highness the Duke of Cornwall and York on his projected tour. The First Lord of the Admiralty is in communication with representatives of the press for the purpose of ascertaining whether it is possible to arrange for other representatives to accompany His Royal Highness. I may say, however, that the accommodation available is exceedingly limited, and the question is one of some difficulty. If the hon. Member will put down a further question at a future date I shall be happy to give him the information he requires as soons as the First Lord of the Admiralty has come to a decision.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I shall put a question down for Monday.

MR. KEIR HARDIE: Arising out of that question, is the hon. Gentleman aware that on the occasion of the funeral of the late Queen Victoria the representative of the *Times* was admitted to Frogmore Chapel on condition——

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! That does not arise out of the question on the Paper.

MR. KEIR HARDIE: I was coming to a supplementary question, Sir. My question is whether in the event of *The Times* correspondent alone being allowed to accompany their Royal Highnesses he would be under an obligation to supply his reports to some central news agency, so that all the newspapers may be placed on an equal footing.

MR. PRETYMAN: I understand that Sir Donald Mackenzie Wallace is not representing *The Times.*

ROYAL MARINES—DISCHARGE PAYMENT.

MR. REGINALD LUCAS: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether, seeing that an ex-soldier upon joining the Royal Reserves has refunded to him two-thirds of the money with which he has previously purchased his discharge, and that this re-payment is denied to ex-non-commissioned officers and men of the Marines, His Majesty's Government will in future recognise the claim of the latter to similar treatment under similar circumstances.

MR. PRETYMAN: The conditions of service in the Royal Marines are more analogous to those prevailing in the Royal Navy than to those in the Army, and it has not been found possible to extend the Army rules on this point to the Marines without considering the Royal Navy. The formation of the Royal Fleet Reserve, however, may make some modification in the existing rules for the Royal Navy and Royal Marines desirable, and the question is now under consideration.

AMERICAN EXPORTS.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer if he is aware that the exports from America of iron, steel, and agricultural implements amounted last year to 145,000,000 dollars, or treble the value in 1897; and that the greater proportion of these surplus goods, not required by the American people, were sent to England, Scotland, and Ireland to compete with British productions, taxed by Imperial imposts and local rates; and whether, in the interests of British and Irish workers, he will take steps to secure such fiscal treatment of these and other competing foreign manufactured imports, amounting to £100,000,000, as shall establish the equality of foreign goods with British goods in the British markets, and place upon the foreigner some portion of the pecuniary burden of the Boer War.

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (SIR M. HICKS BEACH, Bristol, W.): The exports from America of iron, steel, and agricultural implements amounted last year, as stated by my hon. friend, to 145 million dollars, which is not treble, but just over double the value of 1897. But I must demur altogether to his statement as to the proportion taken by the United Kingdom. For the year ended 30th June, 1899, the proportion of these exports taken by the United Kingdom was, according to figures furnished to me by the Board of Trade, under 20 million dollars, out of a total of over 106 million dollars. The figures for 1900 are not yet fully made up, but they are not expected to differ greatly in this respect from those of the year before. If I rightly understand the second paragraph of the question, it suggests a fiscal policy to which I am not disposed.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: I shall take an early opportunity of raising this question.

BEER ADULTERATION.

COLONEL BROOKFIELD (Sussex, Rye): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he is prepared to give effect to the suggestion made in the Majority Report and endorsed in the Minority Report of the Beer Materials Committee, that columns for hops and hop substitutes should be inserted in the brewers' entry books.

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: Yes. I have given directions that the change is to be made. I find there would be practical difficulties, which my hon. friend will no doubt appreciate, in the way of altering the books in the middle of the brewer's year. So I propose to introduce the change on 1st October next.

COLONIAL LOANS ACT, 1899.

MR. STUART SAMUEL (Tower Hamlets, Whitechapel): I beg to ask Mr.

Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he can state to what colonies up to the present time sums have been advanced by the Treasury under the Colonial Loans Act, 1899, and for what purposes, to what amounts, and at what rates of interest; also the date on which each such loan was granted and the date fixed for its repayment.

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: The information asked for cannot be satisfactorily given within the limits of an answer to a question. I will lay a Return on the Table.

COOPER'S HILL COLLEGE.

COLONEL MILWARD (Warwickshire, Stratford-on-Avon): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he can state when the Cooper's Hill Papers, which were laid upon the Table in dummy upon the 21st February, will be ready for distribution.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Lord G. HAMILTON, Middlesex, Ealing): The Papers I understand will be delivered to-morrow.

NEWSPAPER LICENCES IN GIBRALTAR.

MR. KEIR HARDIE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention has been called to an application made, on 17th December last, by Arturo Sacramenti to the Governor of Gibraltar for a licence to publish a newspaper devoted to the interests of the working classes, under the Press Ordinance, Gibraltar, 1869; and can he explain why the application was refused.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: The issue of newspaper licences in Gibraltar is entirely at the Governor's discretion. Sir George White reported to me last month that he had decided to refuse Sacramenti's application for a licence, in the interests of the peace and good order of the fortress, for the maintenance of which he is responsible.

MR. KEIR HARDIE: Is it proposed to lay on the Table any Papers on this subject?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: No, Sir.

BRITISH AFRICAN PROTECTORATES—GRANTS-IN-AID.

MR. JOHN ELLIS: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what have been the total sums voted or to be voted up to the 31st March, 1901, in respect of the British Central African, East African, and Uganda Protectorates (including the purchase of the interests of any Chartered Companies), and what is the total sum advanced, or proposed to be advanced, up to 31st March, 1901, in respect of any railways or other public works in the above Protectorates.

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Viscount CRANBORNE, Rochester): The grants in aid of the revenues of the several Protectorates, including Somaliland, and of the Uganda Railway are as follows:— British Central Africa, £239,700; East Africa Protectorate, £793,675 (including £50,000 paid to the Imperial British East Africa Company for surrender of its charter, etc., and also including the Supplementary Vote before Parliament for £149,000); Somaliland Protectorate (Supplementary Vote, before Parliament), £60,000; Uganda Protectorate, £1,222,400; Uganda Railway, £3,999,000 — total, £6,314,775.

MR. LABOUCHERE (Northampton): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he can state what has been spent of public money during the last ten years on British East Africa, Uganda, Somaliland, and the minor Protectorates in the neighbourhood of these countries.

*VISCOUNT CRANBORNE: The terms of this question are covered by the answer already given to the hon. Member for the Rushcliffe Division of Nottingham. The figures given include all grants made in respect of the Protectorates and railway. These grants go back to 1894 only, covering therefore a period not of ten but of seven years.

CHINA—ITALY AND BRITISH PROPERTY AT PEKING.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether His Majesty's

Minister at Peking has received a protest from Sir Robert Hart against the proposed appropriation of the Imperial Customs buildings by the Foreign Legations, and particularly the Italian Legation, which proposes also to take possession of land which is the property of Sir Robert Hart himself.

*VISCOUNT CRANBORNE: We understand that in connection with the scheme of defence for the Legation quarter a plan is under consideration which would require an open zone 150 yards wide all round, and that to obtain this it would be necessary to take a great part of the site of the Customs Administration. On the 20th instant Sir Robert Hart addressed a letter to His Majesty's Minister and also to the Doyen of the Diplomatic Body expressing his surprise at this appropriation, but stating that if military necessities required the cession of the sites for the defence of the Legation quarter he would not protest or oppose it. But we are in communication with His Majesty's Minister on the subject.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: Can the noble Lord say what compensation is to be paid ?

*VISCOUNT CRANBORNE: We have not got to that point.

THE YANG-TSZE VICEROYS.

SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT (Sheffield, Ecclesall): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether His Majesty's Government will take steps to ensure the maintenance in their office of the Yang-tsze Viceroys who have rendered such services in the interests of Great Britain and of civilisation in their provinces, and to enable them to carry out essential reforms of which they are in favour.

*VISCOUNT CRANBORNE: The matter referred to was carefully considered some time ago, but His Majesty's Minister at Peking reported that he was satisfied that there was no danger of the Viceroys' removal. His Majesty's Government fully appreciate the services which they have rendered.

NEWFOUNDLAND—FRENCH CLAIMS.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether His Majesty's Government are at present in negotiation with the French Government in reference to French claims in Newfoundland; and, if not, whether the advisability of commencing negotiations will be taken into consideration at once.

*VISCOUNT CRANBORNE: It would not be correct to say that negotiations are proceeding with the French Government in reference to Newfoundland; but His Majesty's Government have repeatedly shown themselves willing to take any favourable opportunity for adjusting this long-standing difficulty, and are now in consultation with delegates from the Government of the colony upon the subject.

WALFISCH BAY.

SIR BRAMPTON GURDON (Norfolk, N.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he has any information which he can communicate to the House respecting the alleged cession of Walfisch Bay to Germany, and whether Walfisch Bay is a portion of the territory primarily under the control of the Government of Cape Colony.

*VISCOUNT CRANBORNE: There is no question of a cession of Walfisch Bay to Germany. Walfisch Bay is administered as part of Cape Colony.

LEAD POISONING IN THE POTTERIES—NEW RULES.

MR. COGHILL (Stoke-upon-Trent): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is aware of the dissatisfaction that is felt amongst all classes of the Staffordshire Potteries with the suggested new rules; will he state who drew them up and who is responsible for their production; and will he, in view of the condemnation they are receiving at the hands of every practical person engaged in the manufacture of china and earthenware, take an early opportunity of withdrawing them.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. RITCHIE, Croydon): I am not aware of any such general dissatisfaction as my hon. friend suggests, though objections have been taken to the new rules. The rules were drawn up by the officials of my Department, and I am responsible for their production. I see no reason for withdrawing the rules. The objections must now, in accordance with the statutory provisions on the subject, be settled by arbitration.

MR. COGHILL: Why was no notice of the new rules given to the operatives in the district?

*MR. RITCHIE: They are as fully aware of the rules as the manufacturers.

MR. COGHILL: They got no notice.

CORONERS AND THE PUBLIC EXECUTIONER.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he can give any instances of a public executioner having been required by a coroner's request, summons, or warrant, to give evidence to satisfy the law and the public that an execution was properly carried out within a prison in Great Britain; and whether he can state any instances in which the executioner attended and gave evidence, and any instance in which he refused to attend on the coroner's summons or warrant.

*MR. RITCHIE: So far as I have been able to investigate the matter, I am not aware of any instances of the nature referred to in the question.

DANGERS OF TOY PISTOLS.

MR. HELME (Lancashire, Lancaster): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if his attention has been called to the accidents frequently resulting from the use of so-called toy pistols, and to the recommendation of the jury at the inquest held on Norman S. Allen, of Lancaster, who was shot on the 19th instant by a playfellow, and died immediately after; and if the Government would be willing to adopt measures to restrict the sale of weapons capable of inflicting such injury. In putting the question, I should like further to ask the right hon. Gentleman if he has seen a telegram announcing the death of a lady aged twenty-two, at Ashton-under-Lyne, in consequence of being shot with a toy pistol; and has he received a memorial from the Mayor and Corporation of Lancaster urging that legislation should be initiated.

*MR. RITCHIE: I have received several memorials of the nature referred to, but I have not heard of the death at Ashton-under-Lyne. I have this morning received the recommendation of the jury referred to. I am fully sensible that the question of pistol accidents is a serious one, but as I said two days ago, I cannot promise legislation on the matter this session.

LADY INSPECTORS OF FACTORIES.

MR. BIGNOLD (Wick Burghs): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, seeing that Miss Paterson, who resides in Glasgow, is the only lady inspector in Scotland under the Factory and Workshops Act, and that an increase in the number of lady inspectors was recommended by the Chief Lady Inspector in London, then Miss Abraham, and that this course has been successfully adopted in England and Ireland, he will take into consideration the appointment of additional lady inspectors, or lady inspectors' assistants for Scotland.

*MR. RITCHIE: The lady inspectors are not assigned to England, Scotland, and Ireland separately, or to particular divisions thereof. The lady inspector who resides in Scotland may be and often is employed in England and Ireland, and, conversely, the inspectors residing in England may be employed in Scotland. The increase in the staff of the Lady Inspectors' Department, to which my hon. friend refers, has therefore benefited all parts of the United Kingdom. I am sorry that I do not see my way at present to propose any further increase.

JUSTICES AND THE OATH OF ALLEGIANCE.

SIR JOHN DORINGTON (Gloucestershire, Tewkesbury): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the letters patent of 15th February, 1901, relating to the Commission of the Peace and announced in the Gazette of the same date, constitute a new commission superseding and determining the existing commission within the meaning of the statute of Anne 1, stat. 1, c. 8; or; if not, what is the effect of such letters patent; and if such letters patent constitute a new commission, must two justices at least from each county take the judicial oath and the oath of allegiance before the Lord Chancellor or one of His Majesty's judges in order to enable a court of quarter sessions to be formed before which the other justices can take the necessary oaths as required by the Promissory Oaths Act, 1871, or will some person be appointed by His Majesty in accordance with Section 2 of that Act.

*MR. RITCHIE: I have been in communication with the Lord Chancellor, from whose office the letters patent referred to were issued. The answer to the first and second questions is that the letters patent do not constitute a new commission, and that their effect is not to determine but to continue existing commissions. Consequently the third question does not really arise, but seeing that justices may think it desirable (in accordance with the advice which I stated a few days ago had been given to me) to take the oaths afresh, I am considering whether I shall recommend His Majesty, for the sake of general convenience, to make an appointment under the Promissory Oaths Act, 1871.

RAILWAY SERVANTS AND THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT.

*MR. THOMAS SHAW (Hawick Burghs): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the case of Brodie against the North British Railway Company, in which the Second Division of the Court of Session in Scotland recently decided that a railway servant who had been injured while engaged in the company's work as a goods guard was not entitled to compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act, because the place at which the accident occurred was upon a private siding connected with the main line of rails; whether he is aware that the existing state of the law as declared by this decision has been the subject of much discussion and dissatisfaction among the railway servants of the United Kingdom; and whether it is the intention of His Majesty's Government to bring in any measure to amend the Workmen's Compensation Act so as to include within its scope accidents of the kind before mentioned, to which such a large class of the working men of this country are subject in the regular course of their duties.

*MR. RITCHIE: I have seen a report of the case referred to, but I have not received any representations on the subject from railway servants. No doubt the point will have to be considered when an amending Bill is taken in hand, but I am not at present in a position to promise legislation on the subject.

AN HON. MEMBER: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that half the railway servants of the United Kingdom are deprived of the beneficent provisions of this Act?

[No answer was returned.]

CHEAP TRAINS ACT.

DR. MACNAMARA: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether the time has now come when steps should be taken for an extension of the Cheap Trains Act of 1883, in order that greater facilities for cheap locomotion for working men and women may be secured.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): No, Sir. I am of opinion that the Act of 1883 is at present adequate. I would refer the hon. Member to the voluminous Return published last year showing the facilities that now exist in the matter of workmen's trains and fares.

UNITED STATES STEEL TRUST.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if he is aware that eight of the largest iron and steel firms in the United States have combined their forces with a capital of £229,000,000, with the main object of destroying the iron and steel industries of the United Kingdom, the only market throughout the world open to them without a toll; and what steps His Majesty's Government propose to take to safeguard the interests of the principal staple trades in Great Britain and the workers dependent upon it.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: I have no official information on the subject, but I believe from statements which have been publicly made that a combination of iron and steel firms in the United States is now in course of formation. I am not prepared to accept my hon. and gallant friend's statement of the main object of the combination, and I do not think that any action on the part of His Majesty's Government could usefully be taken.

DESERTIONS FROM THE MERCANTILE MARINE.

*Mr. HAIN (Cornwall, St. Ives): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he can give the number of desertions of seamen and others from the mercantile marine during the past three years; and if he will lay upon the Table of the House a Return giving full particulars similar to the Return presented to Parliament by the Registrar General of Seamen some three years ago.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: I am quite willing to give this Return; its preparation will take a little time.

REGISTERED TONNAGE OF SHIPS.

Mr. FIELD: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is aware that in some instances the registered tonnage of vessels is only about one tenth of the gross tonnage or cargo carried; whether he has had complaints from Irish Harbour Boards upon this subject; and whether he can state if the Board of Trade propose to remedy this inequality between the registered and gross tonnage of vessels.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: Yes, Sir; I am aware of the circumstances to which the hon. Member refers, and the Board of Trade have under consideration an instruction to their officers which it is hoped will mitigate the inequality complained of. Meanwhile, as I have already stated to the House, it is open to harbour authorities to endeavour to obtain powers to levy dues based on the gross instead of on the net tonnage of vessels by means of local Acts.

LONDON WATER COMPANIES—WITHDRAWAL OF PROPOSED REGULATIONS.

Mr. LOUGH (Islington, W.): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether, considering the character of the regulations which the eight water companies of the Metropolis have prepared, the expense that would be thrown upon consumers if any sanction were given to them, and the alarm that has been created amongst the local authorities and inhabitants of London by these proposals, he will undertake that no sanction shall be given to them by his Department without further Parliamentary consideration.

The PRESIDENT of the LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. Walter Long, Bristol, S.): I understand that the proposed regulations have been withdrawn.

Mr. LOUGH: Can the right hon. Gentleman suggest any means by which local authorities and the inhabitants of London may be saved from the great expense and trouble they have been put to by such regulations being brought forward?

Mr. WALTER LONG: The regulations were brought forward by the companies in consequence of the direct recommendation of the Royal Commission. They were submitted to the Local Government Board in proper form, and if the Commissioners thought it was desirable that the regulations should be put forward, I have no suggestion to make as to the way in which the expense may be avoided.

TUBERCULOSIS SEIZURES.

Mr. FIELD: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether, following up the Circular dated 11th March, 1899, respecting tuberculosis seizures, he has received any communications from local authorities pointing out their inability to comply with the suggestions of the Board; whether he is aware, as the result of non-compliance, that actions at law have risen and are now arising in which the recommendations contained in the said Circular are ineffectively cited although based upon the Report of the Royal Commission; and whether the Local Government Board will again draw the attention of local authorities to the aforesaid Circular.

MR. WALTER LONG: The answer to the first and second paragraphs of the question is in the negative. I am not aware of any sufficient reason at the present time for complying with the suggestion in the last paragraph of the question.

THE HOUSING QUESTION.

DR. MACNAMARA: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he is prepared to accede to the request of the London County Council that in its scheme of repayment of loans contracted in connection with its housing schemes it may be permitted to take the value of the land wholly or in part out of the Sinking Fund, thus treating the value so excluded as an asset against debt.

The following question also appeared on the Paper:—

DR. MACNAMARA: To ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he is prepared to accede to the request of the London County Council that it may be permitted to spread the repayment of the loans contracted in connection with its housing schemes over a period of 100 years.

MR. WALTER LONG: Perhaps in replying to this question, I may be allowed also to answer that to my right hon. friend the First Lord of the Treasury, which stands in the name of the hon. Member. Proposals of the kind referred to in these questions were more than once discussed in this House last year in connection with the Bill for the Housing of the Working Classes. It clearly appeared that the sense of the House was adverse to them, and I am not now prepared to propose the legislation which would be necessary for carrying them into effect. In connection, however, with the very pressing question of the provision of housing accommodation for the working classes, I welcome any suggestions which may be made to me and will give them my most careful consideration.

MR. GRAY: Is it not the fact that the discussion on this question arose in the last and not in the present Parliament?

MR. WALTER LONG: Yes, but it was only last June.

DR. MACNAMARA: Will the right hon. Gentleman consider the advisability of appointing a Committee to see whether proposals might be made to deal with this pressing question.

MR. WALTER LONG: If that course seems desirable I shall not hesitate to recommend it to the House. I have issued circulars to the various local authorities in the country asking them to inform me what are the precise difficulties which stand in the way of carrying out the Acts, and I would rather wait to receive their replies before I decide to appoint a Committee.

MR. LOUGH: Might not the period allowed for the repayment of the loan on the value of the land be extended?

MR. WALTER LONG: I am not quite sure whether the hon. Member is entitled to press the question. I have to consider whether we ought to treat the land as holding a permanent value when there is one section in the House which would be willing, by legislation, to depreciate its value.

MR. LOUGH: What ground has the right hon. Gentleman for saying that I entertain an opinion which would depreciate the value of the land, or of anything else, for that matter?

MR. WALTER LONG: I did not intend to cast any imputation on the hon. Member, but I understand the hon. Gentleman is one of those who favour the imposition of a special taxation on land, which certainly would not increase its value.

DR. MACNAMARA: When you get the replies from the local authorities will you state the effect to the House?

MR. WALTER LONG: I do not think I can make any promise to offer a statement. I am doing my best to bring about a solution of this very difficult question.

DEFAULTING POSTMASTERS.

Mr. HAYDEN (Roscommon, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether, in the case of defaulting postmasters, the Post Office Authorities proceed against the sureties before they have failed to realise from the principal in default; and, if so, whether the practice will be altered, so as to leave the sureties free till all the usual steps have been taken to make the property of the principal liable for the debt.

The FINANCIAL SECRETARY to the TREASURY (Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Worcestershire, E.): No, Sir. The practice is to proceed against the defaulter in the first instance, before calling on the sureties to make good the deficiency.

SOUTH AFRICAN MAIL DELAYS.

Mr. BARTLEY: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he is aware that the South African mail arrives frequently, as it did this week, on Monday, thus taking nineteen days from Cape Town; whether he is aware that the new mail boats do the voyage in fifteen or sixteen days, thus securing delivery of the letters three and four days earlier; whether, under a recent arrangement, the voyage of the mails was to be done in sixteen days; and whether he will take steps to secure that the mails shall not in future be carried by the old slow boats of the Union Castle Line.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: On three occasions during this year the South African correspondence has only been delivered in London on Monday, the packet having reached Southampton on two of those occasions on Sunday morning, and on the third, late on Saturday night. On the two occasions of a Sunday arrival the packet exceeded, in adverse circumstances, the time allowed for the voyage under the contract, namely sixteen days twenty hours. A contract time of sixteen days fifteen hours comes into force on the 1st of October, 1903. It is a fact that the voyage has been completed by some of the packets in sixteen and even in fifteen days; but the Postmaster General cannot prevent the use of any particular packet of the Union Castle Line which is not up to that speed, especially if the ships can in normal circumstances do the contract speed. If a vessel incapable of performing the contract were habitually employed, the Postmaster General would, of course, represent the matter to the Colonial Government. The contract is not with the Postmaster General, but with the Government of the Cape Colony. Penalties are prescribed for cases in which the contract time is exceeded.

Mr. BARTLEY: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that this week again the mail arrives on a Sunday. Can he not do something to facilitate the carrying of them?

[The answer was inaudible.]

PRIVATE POSTAL COLLECTIONS—SHEFFIELD CASE.

Mr. KEIR HARDIE: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he is aware that Mr. J. G. Graves, a leading merchant of Sheffield, carrying on a large business through the Post Office, has petitioned the Post Office authorities to have parcels of a less postal value than 5*d.* either collected at his place of business or accepted at the nearest branch office; and whether the Postmaster General will accede to this request.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The person referred to by the hon Member already enjoys exceptional facilities in regard to the collection of his parcels, both ordinary and registered, by the Post Office, and he desires the further privilege of having registered letters collected from his premises. No provision exists for this purpose, but the Postmaster General is considering whether a scheme can be devised which under prescribed conditions would apply to the public generally. A decision will, it is hoped, be shortly arrived at.

Sir HOWARD VINCENT: Has not the gentleman referred to a right to a private collecting box on payment of a fee of a guinea a year?

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I have no personal knowledge as to that.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, if he is aware that inconvenience has been caused to the Sheffield public having business at the General Post Office by the crowding and work entailed there by the representatives of a postal customer to the extent of about £18,000 a year, owing to the refusal of the authorities to collect the registered packets of his firm, as they did prior to the reduction in the postage rate by the last Postmaster General; and whether the Postmaster General will give directions for the ordinary business practice of all carriers to be at once resumed so that mutual annoyance and loss of time may be avoided.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The Postmaster General is aware that a good deal of inconvenience has been caused by the proceedings of the person referred to, who has been warned that if he persists in obstructing public business at the Sheffield Post Office it will be necessary to take proceedings against him. The Department has not in the past made special provision for collecting registered letters from his business premises. The latter part of the question is not understood.

REGISTERED LETTERS—COMPENSATION REGULATIONS.

*MR. THORNTON (Clapham): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether his attention has been called to the statement and table of figures printed on the back of the envelopes made to inclose registered packets, that, subject to the conditions published in the Post Office Guide as to registration, compensation for loss or damage is given in respect of inland registered packets of all kinds according to a table which includes a fee of 2d. to secure compensation limited to £5; and seeing that this statement may lead the public to believe that by paying the 2d. registration fee they are ensuring repayment in full up to £5, of money which has been registered but which is lost in course of post, instead of the £2 limited by the above-mentioned conditions; whether he will give instructions that on all future issues of such envelopes a clearer statement shall be printed of the amount of specie recoverable through registration in the post.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I am in communication with the Postmaster General on this subject. I should be glad if the hon. Member would postpone his question for a week.

ELECTION PETITIONS CLERK—SALARY AND DUTIES.

*MR. MANSFIELD (Lincolnshire, Spalding): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether the Election Petitions Clerk receives a salary of £450 per year, although the work of his office can be done in about a week per year; whether he has just retired on a pension of £300 per year; and whether he will consider the advisability of adding the office to some other department with a lower rate of payment.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The gentleman to whom I understand the hon. Member to refer is a first-class clerk in the central office of the Supreme Court, receiving a fixed salary of £700 a year, plus a fee of two guineas for each petition lodged and registered. He has not retired on a pension. He already performs the ordinary duties of a clerk in the Taxing Department, besides the work connected with petitions.

LONDON CUSTOM HOUSE—ACCOUNTS OFFICES.

MR. O'MALLEY: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether any re-organisation of the tea and dry goods accounts offices in the London Custom House is in contemplation by the substitution of clerks for officers of the outdoor department; and, if so, what steps are proposed to be taken to safeguard the interests of the staff at present employed in those offices.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: In any scheme for the re-organisation of the tea office, the legitimate interests of existing officers will not be overlooked. The exact measures which will be adopted cannot be stated in advance.

GLASGOW SMALL-POX EPIDEMIC.

MR. THOMAS BAYLEY (Derbyshire, Chesterfield): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate if he will institute an inquiry into the outbreak of small-pox in Glasgow in a manner similar to that in which the Local Government Board have granted inquiries on the occasions of recent outbreaks in England; and if he will extend such inquiry into the sanitary conditions of the city and its water supply.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire): I am informed by the Local Government Board for Scotland that there does not seem to them to be any reason at present for instituting an inquiry into the sanitary condition of Glasgow and its water supply. The reference to the practice of the English Local Government Board is, I am informed by that Board, rather misleading. That Board usually send one of their medical inspectors to a district where small-pox is epidemic, in order that he may assist the local authorities with his advice and experience, but the Board have not on any recent occasion held an inquiry into an outbreak of small-pox.

ST. SEPULCHRE, HOLBORN—BELL-TOLLING AFTER EXECUTIONS.

MR. H. C. RICHARDS (Finsbury, E.): I beg to ask the Parliamentary Charity Commissioner if the attention of the Charity Commissioners has been directed to the new rules of the Home Office with regard to the tolling of the bell of the parish church for fifteen minutes after each execution; and if the Commissioners will restore to the parish of St. Sepulchre, Holborn, the income of the benefaction bequeathed for such purpose, and which has been withheld or diverted from the parish by the Commissioners for some years past.

THE PARLIAMENTARY CHARITY COMMISSIONER (Mr. GRIF ITH BOSCAWEN, Kent, Tunbridge): With reference to the question in the first paragraph, the Commissioners have no knowledge of the new regulation mentioned in the question beyond what has appeared in the newspapers. The benefaction in question was a gift by Robert Dowe, in the year 1705, to the end that the vicar and churchwardens of St. Sepulchre, London, should for ever, previous to every execution at Newgate, cause a bell to be tolled, and certain words to be delivered to the prisoners ordered for execution. Under the provisions of the City of London Parochial Charities Act, 1883, the sum representing Dowe's gift, which amounts to £1 6s. 8d. a year, was scheduled as an ecclesiastical charity, and freed from all previously existing trusts, and by a scheme established under this Act it became part of the City Church Fund, the balance of which, after providing for various City church purposes, is paid to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. An amendment to that scheme could only be made on the initiation of the trustees of the London Parochial Charities.

ST. CROSS (WINCHESTER) CHARITY SCHEME.

SIR WALTER FOSTER (Derbyshire, Ilkeston): I beg to ask the hon. Member for the Tunbridge Division, as representing the Charity Commissioners, whether in the new scheme for St. Cross there is a provision giving to the town council of Winchester the nomination of one of the trustees; whether there is a restriction in the choice of the person nominated that he must be a member of the Church of England; whether in recent years there is any precedent for making the election of a representative trustee appointed by a town council on another public body subject to such restriction; and whether he will lay upon the Table of the House the correspondence on the subject, and any protests made against the new scheme.

MR. GRIFFITH BOSCAWEN: There is in the recently established scheme for St. Cross a provision giving to the town council of Winchester the nomination of one of the trustees. But the scheme in question is not a new scheme in the sense that it reorganises the charity. It is in the main a scheme consolidating the provisions of previous orders of the Court of Chancery and of the Charity Commissioners. There is such a restriction in the scheme as that mentioned in the second part of the hon. Member's question. The restriction is in accordance with the provision made by the Court of Chancery in 1857, that the mayor of Winchester should be a trustee if a member of the Church of England. In answer to the third part of the question, there are many recent precedents for requiring in schemes that representative trustees of Church of England trusts shall be members of that Church. I shall be glad to lay the correspondence on the Table if the hon. Member desires it.

IRISH SCHOOL TEACHERS' PENSIONS.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Irish national teachers in the service on the 31st March, 1900, and who will be graded according to the new system higher than their present classes, receive the pension of the class or grade to which they will be promoted by paying an increased premium, in the same way that teachers appointed after the 31st March, 1900, and who will be similarly graded, will get pension rights.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL (Kerry, W.): At the same time may I ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether teachers in Irish national schools will in future get pensions according to their new grades or according to the classification which has been abolished; and, if the latter, can he state what arrangements have been made for promoting deserving teachers to a higher class on the list of prospective pensions.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover): At present teachers pay for the pensions of the classes which they have obtained by examination. Under the new scheme they will rise from grade to grade, as distinguished from classes, by seniority and efficient service. The commissioners have resolved that teachers in the service prior to the 1st April, 1900, are to retain their classifications. How far this decision will affect the pension rules and the pension fund I am not at present prepared to say. The matter is one requiring careful consideration.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL: Will the teacher who was formerly classed as first class, but who may now be in the second class, get the first or second class pension?

MR. WYNDHAM: I have communicated with the Board of Education on this matter, and have given the hon. Member their decision, so far as it has been arrived at. I have also explained that the way in which that decision will affect the pension scheme will have to be carefully considered.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE IN IRELAND.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in view of the decreasing population of Ireland, and the sub-division of labour required under the new programme in national schools, he will urge upon the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland the necessity of reducing the average attendance required for the first assistant from sixty to fifty.

MR. WYNDHAM: The answer to this question is in the negative.

EVICTION AT NEWTOWN-CUNNINGHAM.

MR. M'FADDEN (Donegal, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if his attention has been drawn to the eviction of a tenant named Allison, in the petty sessions district of Newtowncunningham, county Donegal, when the sheriffs' officer had to remove the tenant from a sick bed; whether a doctor's certificate that it was dangerous to remove the tenant was produced; is he aware that the tenant, at the hearing of proceedings at the Newtowncunningham Petty Sessions, stated that he had paid in rent to the landlord over £2,000 down to the value of the fee simple of the farm; and whether the forces of the Crown will in future be sent to assist the sheriffs in Ireland in carrying out such evictions.

MR. WYNDHAM: The eviction of Allison was carried out on the 6th instant in pursuance of a magistrate's warrant for possession. At the hearing of the case a statement was made on behalf of the tenant to the effect mentioned in the third paragraph; the statement, however, was not proved. After eviction, a sum of £50 was offered to Allison by the agent, but was rejected. I am informed that Allison was carried out of the house in his bed. No medical certificate, however, was produced such as is alleged, nor was a doctor present. Upon the information before me, it appears that the man was in his usual health before, during, and after the eviction. In reply to the last paragraph, it is the imperative duty of the Crown to afford protection to sheriffs or their officers in the execution of writs or decrees issued by a competent Court.

MR. M'FADDEN: Was the evicting landlord in this case one of the Government candidates at the last General Election?

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order!

HORSE BREEDING IN IRELAND.

MR. DALY (Monaghan, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can say why it is that the Royal Dublin Society, in awarding premiums for stallions on the register of the Agricultural and Technical Department, give twenty-five prizes of £100 for thoroughbred stallions, while agricultural stallions get only three premiums of £50 each; whether he will request the Royal Dublin Society to give a larger number of premiums in the case of agricultural stallions, considering that Ireland is an agricultural country.

MR. WYNDHAM: The twenty-five premiums of £100 each offered at the recent Stallion Show at Balls Bridge will be paid out of the fund payable annually to the Royal Dublin Society under the Probate Duties Act of 1888. They absorb one-half of the fund; the other half is alloted to bull premiums. The three premiums of £50 each for Agricultural Stallions are not paid out of public money; they will be paid out of the private funds of the Royal Dublin Society.

MR. DALY: But cannot the number be increased, seeing that Ireland is so suitable a country for horse-breeding?

MR. WYNDHAM: That question raises the policy of the Agricultural Department, which I am not prepared to discuss now. As the hon. Member is aware, horse-breeding is a very important business in Ireland.

MR. DALY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that, under the new horse-breeding scheme in connection with the Department of Agriculture, no sire has been allotted to County Monaghan, while two sires are given to County Cavan; and if he will direct that one sire at least be placed at the disposal of the farmers of County Monaghan.

MR. WYNDHAM: This question refers, I am informed, not to the horse-breeding scheme of the Department of Agriculture, but to that of the Royal Dublin Society. I understand that only one stallion was entered from the County Monaghan, but that it was withdrawn by the exhibitor. One stallion is allotted to County Cavan, which will be available for Monaghan, as will also a stallion at Oldcastle, in Meath.

MR. DALY: Cannot you give us a stallion for County Monaghan? You place two in County Cavan?

MR. WYNDHAM: That rests with the Royal Dublin Society.

HAND AND EYE TRAINING IN IRISH SCHOOLS.

MR. WILLIAM MOORE (Antrim, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he is aware that classes have been formed to instruct teachers in the new system of hand and eye training at Ballymena and at Coleraine; that most of the teachers in the Ballymoney district are by reason of the rule as to distance ineligible for either of these classes; and can he state what provision will be made for the Ballymoney and Ballycastle teachers by the Commissioners of National Education for instructing them in this subject, and will equal facilities be afforded to those now given by the Commissioners in Coleraine and Ballymena.

MR. WYNDHAM: A class for the instruction of teachers in hand and eye training is in operation at Coleraine, and a similar class is in course of formation at Ballymena. These places have been selected because each is favourable for the attendance of a large number of teachers. The claims of Ballymoney and Ballycastle will be considered as soon as possible, and classes will be formed when teachers can be assembled in sufficient numbers.

LAND PURCHASE IN IRELAND—SECURITY FOR ADVANCES.

MR. WILLIAM MOORE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether, having regard to the pledges of certain Ulster Members, he will consider the propriety of recommending in the proper quarters the appointment of a Commission to inquire into the question of the financial security for advances to be made from Imperial sources for the purposes of land purchase in Ireland over and beyond the balance of the £33,000,000 secured by the Guarantee Fund (Probate Duty grant, local taxation and grants, etc.) under Section 5 of the Purchase Act, 1891, and to report on the means by which such advances may be best secured.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.): Can the right hon. Gentleman say who are the Members referred to in the question and what was the nature of the pledges said to have been given by them?

MR. WYNDHAM: No, Sir; I have no information which will enable me to answer the supplementary question. The matter referred to in the question is now under consideration by the Government. I am not at present in a position to make any statement on the subject.

INTEREST ON ACCUMULATED EXCHEQUER CONTRIBUTIONS.

MR. CLANCY (Dublin County, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state what becomes of the interest payable on the sum of £200,000, the amount of the accumulated Exchequer contributions which are levelled up to meet possible deficiencies in the payment of instalments of purchase money under the Land Purchase Act of 1891; and if the interest is not paid, together with the annual contribution of £40,000, to the local authorities for the purpose of building labourers' cottages, can he explain why not.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: It is presumed that the hon. Member refers to the Reserve Fund created under Section 5 (2) (b) of the Act. On this understanding, the answer to his question is that, pursuant to Section 15 (7) of the Act, the interest on the investments representing the Reserve Fund is accumulated, reinvested, and added to the Fund. The investments on account of the Fund now amount to £241,000 Consols.

LAND PURCHASE AND LABOURERS' COTTAGES.

COLONEL M'CALMONT (Antrim, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state how many farms have been sold in Ireland under the Land Commission since the Act of 1890 became law; also how many labourers' houses have been erected or improved in connection with such farms in pursuance of the order of the Land Commission under Section 26.

MR. WYNDHAM: The Act of 1891 is presumably intended to be referred to. Between the passing of that Act and the 31st ultimo, advances have been made in 27,924 cases to enable tenants to purchase their holdings under the Acts of 1891–1896. The number of Orders made under the 26th Section of the Act of 1891 has been three.

LABOURERS' COTTAGES AT LETTERKENNY.

MR. O'DOHERTY (Cork County, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that in the month of May, 1899, representations were forwarded to the Letterkenny District Council on behalf of fifteen labourers residing in that district; that the district council decided not to formulate a scheme, and that an appeal from that decision, as provided by Section 4 of the 1891 Act, was forwarded to the Local Government Board; that nothing was done in the matter by the said Board; that subsequently other representations were forwarded to said district council, and acted upon by them; that at an inquiry held with reference to the latter representations, evidence was produced before Mr. Kelly, Local Government inspector, to the effect that the district council had shelved the representations lodged with them in May, 1899; that Mr. Kelly stated that the scheme then before him was inadequate; and that he reported accordingly to the Local Government Board; and whether the Local Government Board will order an inquiry by their inspector into the representations lodged in May, 1899, and order the district council to promulgate a scheme which will include cottages for those labourers whose representations are so long pending.

Mr. WYNDHAM: The facts are generally as stated. It appears that the district council received representations for the erection of twenty-four labourers' cottages, but they decided to make a scheme for eleven only, as that was the number of applicants' dwellings which the medical officer of health actually condemned as unfit for human habitation. The scheme so made is being confirmed by Provisional Order, and it appears from recent minutes of the district council that they are considering further representations with the view of making a supplemental scheme. The effect of an inquiry such as that asked for would be to coerce the council to act on particular applications, but as that body seems to be exercising a reasonable discretion in the matter, the Board do not think there is any cause for interference on their part.

Mr. O'DOHERTY: What was the reason for the rejection of the scheme?

Mr. WYNDHAM: The district council put forward a scheme affecting a number of houses which had been condemned by the medical officer. They are now considering a further scheme, and under those circumstances I see no reason for interference on the part of the Local Government Board.

RENT FIXTURES.

Colonel M'CALMONT: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland will he state what is the number of cases in which rents have been fixed by the Land Commission or by agreement in Ireland; and how many cases in which orders have been made under Section 19, Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1881, directing cottages to be built or improved; in how many of these cases have the orders been complied with; and in how many cases have the penalties for non-compliance with orders been enforced.

Mr. WYNDHAM: The number of fair rents fixed by the Land Commission has been, for a first statutory term, 174,849; for a second term, 34,367. The number fixed by agreements and declarations lodged with the Commission has been, for a first statutory term, 132,051; for a second term, 27,777. Fair rents have also been fixed in the civil bill courts for a first statutory term in 18,477 cases, and for a second term in 2,492 cases; and by agreements in the same courts, for a first term in 7,329, and for a second term in 146 cases. The number of orders made by the Land Commission under the enactment referred to in the second paragraph is 853. I am unable to say, without further inquiry, in how many cases these orders have been complied with. The duty of enforcing compliance with the order devolves primarily upon the sanitary authority, and it is only in cases where complaint is made to the Local Government Board by householders in the district that the Board act in lieu of the sanitary authority. Only one such case has so far occurred, and in that the Board took proceedings and enforced the penalty.

Mr. FLAVIN: How many future tenancies have been created?

Mr. WYNDHAM: I will give the hon Member the information privately if he will allow me.

Mr. FLAVIN: I will put a question down.

IRISH LAND PURCHASE.

Mr. FFRENCH (Wexford, S.): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney General for Ireland, having regard to the fact that the Land Judge as seller of an estate under the 40th section of the Land Act of 1896 frequently asks a higher price than that fixed by the Land Commission, and that the possession of such power by the Land Judge prevents sales to the tenants and deprives them of the benefits of the 40th section, whether the Government intend to amend the law so that the Land Judge cannot ask a higher price than that fixed by Land Commission.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL for IRELAND (Mr. Atkinson, Londonderry, N.): The answer to this question is in the negative.

MR. FFRENCH: Would it not greatly facilitate the sale of estates if the Land Judge had power to increase the loan or no power to increase the price?

MR. T. W. RUSSELL: Is it not the practice of the Land Judges in these cases to demand payment of arrears?

MR. ATKINSON: I must ask for notice.

MR. FFRENCH: I beg to ask Mr. Attorney General for Ireland whether the Land Judge must give the first chance of purchasing their holdings to the tenants when there is an absolute order for the sale of an estate under the 40th section of the Land Act of 1896; and whether, seeing that owing to insufficient notice the tenants are often not in court when the 40th section is applied, steps will be taken to have notice served directly on the parties interested.

MR. ATKINSON: The tenants must, and as a matter of fact always do, get an opportunity of exercising the right of pre-emption. The rules and orders provide that the tenants must get notice of the day fixed for the consideration by the Land Judge of the report of the Land Commission. No alteration in the procedure is necessary. If the tenants do not attend the fault is their own.

MR. FFRENCH: Is any notice given except in the law lists in the daily paper, and can anyone who is not a lawyer understand them?

MR. ATKINSON: I think anyone who can read can understand the law lists. I understand, however, that the tenants have a special notice.

EXPENDITURE ON THE INSANE IN IRELAND.

MR. CLANCY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been directed to the increase in the numbers admitted to lunatic asylums in Ireland and in the consequent expenditure, for buildings and maintenance, in those institutions; whether he has come to any conclusions as regards the suggestions made to him by the deputation of medical men which recently waited upon him in reference to that subject; and if he has considered the question whether the cost of the maintenance and treatment of the insane ought to be made a State charge.

MR. WYNDHAM: The answer to the first paragraph is in the affirmative. The object of the deputation referred to in the second paragraph was the establishment of a central pathological laboratory. In reply to the last paragraph, I would prefer to wait for the Report of the Royal Commission on Local Taxation before expressing a final opinion on the subject.

GOVERNMENT GRANT TO IRISH LUNACY AUTHORITIES.

SIR JAMES HASLETT (Belfast, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state when the portion of capitation grant for lunatic asylums not paid by Government in 1899 will be paid over to the local authorities; and what is the reason for withholding it so long.

MR. WYNDHAM: The position in reference to the payment of the grant in aid of the maintenance of pauper lunatics for the period mentioned has repeatedly been explained, both in answer to questions in this House and in communications addressed by Government to the local authorities. It is erroneous to assume that these authorities have been deprived of any portion of the grant by reason of the change in the year of account. It is true that the expenditure during the quarter ended 31st March, 1899, does not form an element in the calculation of the grant for 1900–1, but in lieu of it the somewhat greater expenditure for the corresponding quarter of 1900 has been taken, and the local authorities have thus received for this year, as heretofore, a full year's grant.

AN HON. MEMBER: Is it not the case that the grant is sometimes kept back three months? Will the right hon. Gentleman inquire into an instance of that laid before him?

MR. WYNDHAM: I have inquired into it very fully. It is a very complicated matter.

DEPORTATION OF PAUPERS TO IRELAND.

MR. GILHOOLY: On behalf of the hon. Member for North Tipperary, I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been directed to the deportation of a woman named M'Cabe from Glasgow to Nenagh (Ireland); whether he is aware that it appears from the depositions of Mrs. M'Cabe, that she left Ireland when eight years old and went to England where she resided fifty-two years, then went to Scotland when, after a residence of four weeks in a workhouse in Glasgow, she was sent to Nenagh; and whether the authorities connected with the Glasgow Workhouse are empowered to take such action; and, if so, whether he will cause the law to be amended to prevent a repetition of similar action.

MR. WYNDHAM: I am informed that the facts are correctly stated in the question. The Local Government Board for Scotland have informed the Guardians that the Parish Council of Glasgow were acting within their legal rights in removing this poor person, and that she did not reside in Glasgow sufficiently long to confer upon the Irish Board of Guardians a right of appeal against her removal. The case is doubtless one of hardship, but I am afraid I can hold out no hope of an amendment of the law, as suggested.

MR. DALY: Why was this woman, who lived fifty-two years in England, not sent there instead of to Ireland?

MR. WYNDHAM: I understand the law is that a person who has resided for five or six years in a place has to be maintained there, but if the term of residence is shorter, then the birth-place is the place of settlement. Hence this poor woman was not sent to England.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: I wish to ask the right hon. Gentleman whether, in view of the extreme hardships of cases like these, he will consider the advisability of altering the law, so that a person who has lived fifty-two years in England shall not become a burden on the Irish ratepayers?

[The answer was inaudible.]

SOLICITORS AS MAGISTRATES.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether solicitors who become magistrates by election as chairman of public bodies in Ireland under the Local Government Act are disqualified by becoming magistrates from practising their profession; and if so, whether the Government will take steps to remove such disqualifications.

MR. WYNDHAM: Solicitors who become justices of the peace by virtue of being elected to the post of chairman of a county or district council are not thereby disqualified from practising their profession. But it would obviously be most improper for them to practise as solicitors in the petty sessions courts in which they are in the habit of sitting, or are entitled to sit as justices.

TYPHUS FEVER IN THE ARRAN ISLANDS.

MR. DUFFY (Galway, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that typhus fever has broken out in one of the Arran Islands, Galway; that no steps were taken by the medical inspector to prevent this outbreak; and that the unsanitary condition of the burial grounds was brought under the notice of the late Chief Secretary by questions asked in the House on 6th July and 2nd August, 1900; whether the medical inspector has visited the island since complaint was made in July; whether he is aware that one death from typhus has already occurred; and whether he will inquire if the person placed in charge of the patients is a man duly fitted to discharge the duties entrusted to him.

MR. WYNDHAM: There are four cases of typhus under treatment in the Arran Islands. One other case has proved fatal. The condition of the graveyard has been repeatedly brought under the notice of the local council, and questions were addressed to my predecessor on the subject. The duty of taking steps to prevent outbreaks of fever devolves upon the local authority, and not upon the medical inspector of the Local Government Board. That gentleman visited the islands last week. The medical officer of health considers the person referred to in the last paragraph competent to discharge his duties. The medical inspector proposes to visit the islands again to-day, and he will consult with the medical officer as to further steps, if any, that may be required.

*MR. DUFFY: Is it a fact that the Local Government Board inspector never visited this island from July last until this question appeared on the Paper a day or two since?

MR. WYNDHAM: My reply shows that the duty of taking the necessary preventive measures rests in these cases with the local authorities.

CONGESTED DISTRICTS IN COUNTY MAYO — MARQUESS OF SLIGO'S ESTATES.

DR. AMBROSE (Mayo, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to a resolution of the Westport Rural District Council urging upon the Congested Districts Board for Ireland the great importance of the purchase by the board of the Louisburgh and Aughagower estates of the Marquess of Sligo; and would he, as President of the Board, use his influence in bringing about the speedy purchase of those estates, and thereby contribute to putting a stop to the tide of emigration from those districts.

MR. WILLIAM O'BRIEN (Cork): At the same time I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether, seeing that the Congested Districts Board many months ago entered into negotiations for the purchase of the estates of the Marquess of Sligo, in the parishes of Louisburgh and Aughagower, he can say what is the cause of the delay in completing the purchase.

MR. WYNDHAM: Owing to the purchase by the Congested Districts Board of so large an estate as that of Lord Dillon, the limit of advances of guaranteed land stock fixed by the Land Law Act, 1896, has been reached in the case of the County Mayo, and until a considerable portion of that estate has been resold to the tenants the Board will not be able to resume negotiations for the purchase of other estates. There ought to be no long delay.

MR. DILLON: Can the right hon. Gentleman not see his way to remove the difficulty?

MR. WYNDHAM: I should prefer not now to discuss a question of policy or legislation.

FEES UNDER THE LABOURERS (IRELAND) ACTS.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: I beg to ask Mr. Attorney General for Ireland whether solicitors in Ireland, who appear to oppose representations at inquiries held under the Labourers Acts, are entitled to fees to be paid, on the order of the Local Government Board, by the rural district council, whether the opposition is successful or not; and if so, to what fee are such solicitors entitled.

MR. ATKINSON: The Local Government Board have, in the exercise of the powers conferred upon them by the seventh section of the Labourers Act of 1883, made an Order fixing the costs and expenses which may be allowed to owners of land proposed to be taken opposing a scheme. These costs include, of course, the solicitor's fee, and are payable by the rural district council, The practice is to allow costs only when the opposition is successful, in which case the solicitor's fee is fixed at 10s. 6d.

ROYAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND.

MR. BOLAND (Kerry, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Government is prepared to adopt the resolution recently passed by the Senate of the Royal University of Ireland, and to issue a Royal Commission to inquire into the working of the Royal University, and to report as to the means by which University Education in Ireland may receive a greater extension and be more efficiently conducted than it is at present.

MR. WYNDHAM: The resolution to which reference is made has not yet been officially received. I understand my noble friend will be approached in a day or two on the subject, and I should not like to anticipate his reply to the request of the Senate.

IRISH POOR LAW OFFICERS' ASSISTANTS.

MR. M'FADDEN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to a sealed order, dated 4th February last, addressed by the Local Government Board of Ireland to the boards of guardians in Ireland, making it mandatory for them to appoint assistants to the several poor law officers set forth in said order in all cases in which the Local Government Board consider such appointments necessary; and whether it is intended by such order to further increase the number of officials in Ireland without first consulting the elected representatives of the ratepayers as to the necessity for such increase.

MR. WYNDHAM: The reply to the first paragraph is in the affirmative. The occasion for the making of the Order was a default in some cases by guardians to appoint nurses when their own medical officers were of opinion that such nurses were absolutely necessary for the proper care of the sick poor. The Order does not confer any new power on the Local Government Board, but was made in pursuance of Section 31 of the Poor Relief Act, 1838.

MR. M'FADDEN: Then am I to understand that the Order is not final?

MR. WYNDHAM: Any representation that may be made by local authorities against the Order will, of course, be carefully considered by the Board.

IRISH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND CONTRACTS.

MR. POWER (Waterford, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether any decision of the High Court in Ireland has yet been obtained as to the effect which an interest in a contract of tenancy by a person otherwise qualified has on the right of such person to act as a member of a rural district council with which he has such contract.

MR. WYNDHAM: In the case which the Local Government brought to test this question, in pursuance of their undertaking, the King's Bench Division have, in a judgment which I have not as yet seen, overruled the decision of the justices, and held that the occupant of the labourers' cottage was not disqualified.

LETTERKENNY TOWN COURT.

MR. M'FADDEN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that in the town of Letterkenny there has been established and is held a town court, under the Towns Improvement (Ireland) Act, 1854, for the hearing and determining of offences against said Act, and offences against Section 12 of the Licensing Act of 1872, committed within the boundary of said town; will he explain why the constabulary authorities have refused to prosecute before said town court for offences committed within the town boundary in cases where the offenders reside outside the township, particularly in cases coming within the 12th section of the Licensing Act of 1872, although the urban council of Letterkenny and magistrates of the district petitioned the authorities to have all such offences committed within the town boundary prosecuted before the said town court, which petition has been refused; whether he is aware that by this action of the constabulary the urban council of Letterkenny are deprived of a considerable source of revenue owing to such prosecutions being conducted at petty sessions in the name of the constabulary as complainants; and whether His Majesty's Government will cause directions to be issued to the constabulary authorities that such offences be prosecuted in the several town courts in Ireland, so that the fines resulting therefrom may be available for the reduction of the heavy taxation with which all urban districts have to contend.

MR. WYNDHAM: I am aware of the fact mentioned in the first paragraph. The rule is that in cases where the offender lives outside the town, or his address is unknown, the police prosecute in their own name before the justices in petty sessions, and not in the town court, one half of the penalties in such cases being paid to the town commissioners. All other cases are prosecuted in the town court in the name of the commissioners, who receive, in these cases, the whole of the penalties. The rule has operated generally throughout Ireland for many years, and I am advised it should not be altered.

PRESS PROSECUTIONS IN IRELAND.

MR. DUFFY: I beg to ask Mr. Attorney General for Ireland whether he is aware that Mr. John M'Philpin, editor and proprietor of the *Tuam News*, Tuam, county Galway, has been summoned by the Crown to give evidence in respect to resolutions and newspaper reports published in his paper, and alleged to have been furnished to him by persons awaiting their trial at Athenry on 14th March next; and whether, in view of the announcement made recently in respect to similar summonses issued in the city of Waterford, he will direct the immediate withdrawal of the summons against this newspaper editor.

MR. ATKINSON: I have called for a report from the Crown Solicitor in reference to the matter referred to, and would ask the hon. Member to postpone his question until Monday. The case has been adjourned until the 8th of March, so there is ample time to make inquiry.

MR. DUFFY: Is it not the fact that within the past week an explicit statement was made in reference to a similar case at Waterford, and will like treatment be meted out to Mr. M'Philpin?

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order!

IRISH KELP INDUSTRY.

MR. O'MALLEY (Galway, Connemara): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in view of the importance of the kelp industry to the people along the coasts of the congested districts of Connemara, and in view of the conditions under which that industry has been and continues to be carried on, he will take steps to urge on the Congested Districts Board the advisability of establishing a depot in some central locality, where the industry could be carried on on a more scientific basis, to the advantage of the people engaged in it.

MR. WYNDHAM: Owing to the possibility of the importation of iodine from South America being at any time largely increased, the market for kelp, in the opinion of the Board, is an uncertain and, to some extent, an artificial one which should not be disturbed by any precipitate action of the kind suggested. The Board are, however, making inquiry as to the possibility of teaching better methods of preparing kelp.

MAYDEW GRAVEYARD.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state on what date the order of the Local Government Board closing Maydew graveyard takes effect; whether it is within the Board's knowledge that no arrangements have been made to provide any further burial accommodation there; and whether, under these circumstances, the Board will suspend the enforcing of the order until some arrangement to provide for future interments can be made.

MR. WYNDHAM: The order closing this burial ground will take effect from the 1st April next. The Local Government Board are not aware whether the rural district council have taken steps to provide future burial accommodation. If, however, the council make an effort in this direction, the Board, on the application of the council, will be prepared to extend the time for closing the graveyard, should such a step be necessary to enable the council to complete their arrangements.

POSTPONEMENT OF FAIR RENT APPLICATIONS.

MR. CULLINAN (Tipperary, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been directed to the practice of the Land Commission of postponing indefinitely the hearing of fair rent applications in cases where negotiations for sale are pending; and whether he will take steps to secure a more speedy hearing of such cases in future.

MR. WYNDHAM: Perhaps the hon. Member will repeat this question on Monday next, as communication is necessary with the Commissioners, some of whom are out of Dublin.

HANGING GALES.

Mr. O'DOWD (Sligo, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware of the fact that what is commonly known in Ireland as a hanging gale, comprising a half-year's rent, is claimed by the landlords as being due to them out of all agricultural holdings; but demanded only when the tenants are entering court to have fair rents fixed; and whether, in any future legislation affecting the relations of landlord and tenant in Ireland, the advisability of having this hanging gale abolished will be considered.

Mr. WYNDHAM: A hanging gale is a debt due to the landlord by the tenant which the latter gets six months or more to pay after it has become due. This indulgence is given to tenants on many estates in Ireland, but I have no means of ascertaining whether it is demanded when the tenant enters the courts as suggested. I am unable to promise any legislation to deprive a creditor of his debt because he has given time in this way to the debtor.

Mr. FLAVIN: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that in many cases the landlord issues the writs within fourteen days of the current gale becoming due?

[No answer was returned.]

THE RECENT "DAY OF GENERAL MOURNING"—POLICE AND WICKLOW SHOPKEEPERS.

Mr. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the police ordered the publicans of Roundwood and Lara, county Wicklow, to keep their shops closed on Saturday, 2nd February, and whether they acted on their own initiative, or upon instructions received from a superior officer, and under what statute are the Irish constabulary entitled to order the closing of public-houses on an ordinary weekday.

Mr. WYNDHAM: The fact, I understand, is as stated in the first part of the question. The police acted on the instructions of the district inspector, who was of opinion, erroneously, that the public-houses should be closed as on a day of public fast under the 35 and 36 Vict. cap. 94, Section 78.

Mr. JAMES O'CONNOR: Will the attention of the Inspector General of the Irish Constabulary be drawn to this case?

Mr. WYNDHAM: Yes, his attention has been drawn to the error.

EVICTIONS IN ULSTER.

Mr. O'MARA (Kilkenny, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in view of the fact that during the quarter ending 31st December, 1900, the number of eviction notices filed in the county courts of Ulster was 46 per cent. of the number of all Ireland, he will consider the expediency of repealing Section 7 of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1887.

Mr. WYNDHAM: The number of eviction notices filed in the county courts in Ulster in the last December quarter was 145, out of a total of 310 throughout Ireland, or a percentage on the latter of 46. I cannot hold out any hope of legislation in the direction suggested.

Mr. O'MARA: Is this percentage so large because of the sympathy that exists between the Government and the Ulster Members?

[No answer was given.

ALLOTMENTS ACT—EXTENSION TO IRELAND.

Mr. FIELD: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will introduce a Bill to extend the Allotments Act to Ireland this session.

Mr. WYNDHAM: I cannot undertake to introduce legislation on this subject.

IRISH PROSECUTIONS UNDER THE FACTORY ACTS—KEADY LINEN COMPANY.

Mr. DONAL SULLIVAN (Westmeath, S.): On behalf of the hon. Member for North Louth, I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is aware that when complaint was made to the factory inspector, Belfast, that children in the Keady Linen Company were fined for not coming to work on a factory holiday (15th August), the inspector returned the fine, and did not prosecute the company; and that when the father of the children wrote to the Home Office for an explanation, he was referred by letter of 18th February to the inspector complained of; and can he state the number of prosecutions under the Factory Acts for the last two years in county Armagh and county Donegal respectively.

*MR. RITCHIE: I have made inquiry and find that the facts are as stated in the first paragraph of the question. The inspector seems to have taken much trouble to see that the fines wrongly imposed on the two children by their employers were returned. It was a matter for his discretion whether or not to report the case for prosecution. The number of prosecutions during the last two years has been as follows; In Armagh eighteen firms were prosecuted for a total of eighty-four offences, and in Donegal seven firms were prosecuted for sixteen offences.

DUBLIN POSTAL TELEGRAPHIC STAFF—STAGNATION OF PROMOTION.

MR. NANNETTI (Dublin, College Green): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether the Postmaster General is aware that in the telegraph branch of the post office, Dublin, of a staff of 212 sorting clerks and telegraphists employed, there are over forty at present at the maximum of their scale of pay; whether, having regard to the slowness in promotion in the telegraph branch of the post office as compared with the sorting branch, any steps are being taken in the revision of the Dublin establishment, at present under consideration, to remedy this state of affairs; whether it is being taken into account in this revision that the four London and Dublin news wire repeaters, which should be manned by officers of the rank of clerk, have been staffed by sorting clerks and telegraphists almost continuously for the past five years; and also whether it is contemplated to allocate clerkships for the Intelligence, Examining, Circulation, and Correspondence sections, as has been done in Liverpool and other large centres.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: A revision of the telegraph staff of the Dublin Post Office is now under consideration. It will include such additional provision, if any, as may be found necessary for the duties referred to by the hon. Member. The number of superior appointments, however, must of course be strictly regulated by the requirements of the service, and no increase in them could be sanctioned merely in order to afford promotion to telegraphists who are at the maximum of their scale.

ENNISKILLEN POST OFFICE.

MR. JORDAN (Fermanagh, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, if he is aware that though under the terms of Mr. Raikes's scheme of revision, announced in 1890, the commencing wages of sorting clerks and telegraphists were: first year 12s. per week, second year 14s. per week, and third year 18s. per week, this scale was refused to the staff at Enniskillen, and, instead, one of 12s. per week, rising by annual increments of 2s. per week, insisted on; that this matter was submitted to the surveyor, who replied that Mr. Raikes's scheme did not apply to that office, and is he aware that the form used by the postmaster of Enniskillen when recommending the starting pay had the initial scales of pay given by Mr. Raikes printed on the margin; and whether inquiry can be made with a view to restitution to those sorting clerks and telegraphists on the establishment at Enniskillen, appointed subsequent to July, 1890, and prior to February, 1896, who have been affected.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: There appears to be some misapprehension in this case. The scale of pay for sorting clerks and telegraphists on appointment at Enniskillen, sanctioned by the Treasury in 1890, was the same as at all other offices of a similar class—namely, 12s. the first year, 14s. the second year, and 18s. the third year, and then rising by 2s. per week annually to the maximum. It appears, however, that two officers, who are probably those referred to, did not enter the scale at 12s.

per week, but, in pursuance of further authority obtained in 1891, granting a concession to officers who had rendered unestablished service of not less than a year and had attained certain qualifications, were allowed to enter the scale at 14s. a week; and in their case the pay was, as laid down in the authority, 16s. a week for the second year, and 18s. a week for the third year; so that instead of receiving 12s. a week for the first year, 14s. a week for the second year, and 18s. a week the for third year, they received 14s. a week for the first year, 16s. a week for the second year, and 18s. a week for the third year. Another officer, appointed in 1892, with longer unestablished service, was, in accordance with the same authority, allowed to enter the scale at 16s. a week, receiving 18s. a week for the second year, then rising by 2s. per week annually.

SUNDAY DELIVERY AT COOLARTY (CO. LONGFORD).

MR. J. P. FARRELL: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he is aware that three complaints and a petition, signed by the residents of thirteen townlands, were sent to the Dublin office of the Department, asking for a Sunday delivery of letters at Coolarty, county Longford, and a wall box to be put at Springpark gate; and will the prayer of the petition be now attended to.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The complaints and petitions referred to by the hon. Member, which it now appears were addressed to the Dublin Post Office, have not yet reached the Postmaster General; but in consequence of the hon. Member's previous question of the 18th instant, instructions were at once sent to the Dublin Post Office to make inquiry as to the practicability of affording a Sunday delivery of letters at Coolarty, county Longford, and erecting a letter box at Springpark. A Report shall be obtained as soon as possible and the result made known to the hon. Member.

LIGHTS ON THE IRISH COAST—MIZEN HEAD.

MR. GILHOOLY: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether repeated representations have been made by the shipowners and the nautical community generally, as well as the Harbour Commissioners of Cork, as to the necessity for the erection of a lighthouse and fog signal on or near Mizen Head; and whether, seeing that a number of casualties have occurred there within recent years, he will take steps to compel the Irish Lights Commissioners to remedy this defect.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: The question of the erection of a lighthouse and fog signal on or near Mizen Head was discussed at a conference which was held last month at the offices of the Board of Trade, and at which representatives of the General Lighthouse Authorities and of a committee of shipowners and others interested in shipping attended. The latter were asked to state their views on the subject in writing, and these will be considered by the Commissioners of Irish Lights. I may add that the Board of Trade have no power to compel a General Lighthouse Authority to undertake any work.

BULL ROCK AND MEW ISLAND FOG SIGNALS.

MR. GILHOOLY: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether it has been decided to replace the fifteen-minute fog guns on the Bull Rock by an automatic fog signal, and whether it has been decided to fit a siren there; whether he is aware that a siren has been found by experience to be a less efficient and more costly form of fog signal than a reed horn such as is in use by the Belfast Harbour Commissioners; and whether he will ascertain and inform the House of the cost of the fog-signal machinery at Mew Island, and also at Belfast Loch No. 1.

*MR. GERALD BALFOUR: The Board of Trade sanctioned in 1897, and a tender has been accepted for, the erection of a siren on Bull Rock. On the general question as to the relative efficiency and cost of sirens and reed horns I am not prepared to express an opinion, but I may mention that the Trinity House propose to make some experiments on the subject in the course of the present year. The fog siren at Mew Island has, I understand, cost about £3,400, but I have no information as to the cost of the fog-signal machinery at Belfast Lough, which was not provided by the General Lighthouse Authority.

LUCIFER SHOAL RED LIGHT.

MR. GILHOOLY: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether representations have been received from the nautical community as to the character of Lucifer Shoal fixed red light; and whether, seeing that representations have been made that this is liable to be mistaken for the port side light of a sailing ship, the Irish Lights Board will take steps to remove this danger.

*MR. GERALD BALFOUR: Such representations have been made, and I am informed that the Commissioners of Irish Lights are considering the question of improving the character of the light at the Lucifer Shoal.

INISTRAHUL FOG SIGNAL.

MR. GILHOOLY: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether representations as to the necessity for a fog signal at Inistrahul have reached the Irish Lights Board; and, if so, can he explain why no notice has been taken of them.

*MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I understand that the question of providing a fog signal at Inistrahul has been considered by the Commissioners of the Irish Lights, but that they are of opinion that it would be a most unsuitable place for that purpose.

RATHLIN ISLAND LIGHT AND SIGNAL.

MR. GILHOOLY: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether representations have been received from the shipping community that a light and fog signal should be erected on the west side of Rathlin Island, and whether he will take steps to compel the Irish Lights Board to remedy the defect; and whether, seeing that other works are being undertaken during the coming financial year, the Board of Trade will exercise their veto upon such an expenditure pending the carrying out of the above-mentioned works.

*MR. GERALD BALFOUR: Yes, sir, representations have reached me in regard to Rathlin Island. I understand, however, that the Commissioners of Irish Lights consider that the present lighthouse is in the best position for both outward and homeward bound ships, and that they do not consider it necessary to have an additional light on the western end of the island.

PROTECTION OF TOWN TENANTS' IMPROVEMENTS.

MR. NANNETTI: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he has received a copy of a resolution passed at a meeting of the guardians of the South Dublin Union, requesting the Government to take urgent steps to have a Bill passed through Parliament for the protection of town tenants, whereby the occupier would in case of disturbance or expiration of lease be entitled to compensation for his own improvements: and whether he will be able to see his way to give effect to the desire expressed in this resolution.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The resolution referred to in the first paragraph of the question has been received. I am not able to hold out any hope of legislation as suggested in the second.

MR. FLYNN: Can the right hon. Gentleman give Irish Members any assistance in passing a Bill?

[No answer was returned.]

ILLEGAL PRACTICES IN THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND.

MR. CHARLES M'ARTHUR (Liverpool, Exchange): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether his attention has been directed to the continued resort by a section of the clergy of the Established Church to practices not prescribed by the Book of Common Prayer or ordered by lawful authority, such as masses, celebration of Holy Communion without the requisite number of communicants, children's Eucharists, ceremonial use of incense, and the inculcation of habitual confession; whether he is aware that the bishops continue to veto legal proceedings intended to check such irregularities; whether the laity in large numbers are thus deprived of their constitutional right to the ministrations of religion in their parish churches in accordance with the rites of the Church of England, and that disturbances in Divine worship have been occasioned in connection with these irregularities; and whether he will consider the desirability of carrying into effect the Resolution of the House of Commons on 10th May, 1899, that if the efforts now being made by the archbishops and bishops to secure the due obedience of the clergy are not speedily effectual, further legislation will be required to maintain the observance of the existing laws of Church and Realm.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: As my hon. friend is aware, I have no official cognisance of the matters referred to in the first three paragraphs of the question. He must therefore take my answer as conveying my own personal views for what they are worth. I hope, and believe, that the efforts of the bishops have had, and are having, a great effect in diminishing practices in the Church of England which are unlawful or inexpedient. I have heard of no employment of the veto by any bishop except in the case of Colonel Porcelli, who was not a parishioner of any of the churches of which he complained, nor did he represent any responsible body or association in the country. I ought to add that my hon friend's enumeration of the unlawful practices he desires to see dealt with is somewhat misleading. He enumerates five practices which he implies are contrary to the law. The first of these is Masses. If he means to describe the Communion Service of the Church of England by the word "Mass," it seems to me to be a misleading and foolish expression. But it is not illegal. As to the second point, the celebration of the Holy Communion without the requisite number of communicants is undoubtedly illegal; but I have no ground for thinking it is otherwise than of rare occurrence, and when it happens it is often by accident. The third point is children's Eucharists. If this means, as I suppose it does, the presence of children during the Communion Service, it seems to me to be a very undesirable practice, but it cannot be described as unlawful. I may add that it has been frequently objected to by the bishops. The ceremonial use of incense is undoubtedly illegal, but I believe the practice has greatly diminished, and is diminishing, through the action of the bishops. As to the fifth point, the inculcation of habitual confession is, wherever it takes place, a most unfortunate practice.

Mr. DILLON: This is a speech, and a very offensive one. On a point of order I desire to ask whether the First Lord of the Treasury is in order in delivering a long speech giving his opinion on controversial matters to which hon. Members are not at liberty to reply.

*Mr. SPEAKER: I must say I think the fault, if any, is rather of the questioner than the answerer. The question enters into matters of opinion which, if I had seen it, I should not have allowed to appear on the Paper. The first part of the question does refer to these practices as illegal, and I cannot say the right hon. Gentleman is out of order in offering his opinion whether they are illegal or otherwise. He is speaking, not of the merits of the practices, but strictly to the question whether they are in accordance with the law of the Church of England.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: If the hon. Gentleman supposes I was making any reflection on observances in the Church of which he is a member he is mistaken. I was referring only to the Church of England, and to practices as they are regarded by the Protestant community. To make confession a condition of receiving Communion is not only repugnant to the whole spirit of the Church of England, but is wholly illegal. I do not think the imposition of such a condition has been attempted, and if it were it would not receive a moment's toleration from any member of the episcopal bench.

Mr. CHARLES M'ARTHUR: I will take the first opportunity of drawing the attention of the House to this subject.

Mr. SAMUEL SMITH (Flintshire): Will the Government give facilities for discussion of the subject during the present session?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I believe there are two Bills on the subject actually on the Orders of the House.

MR. SAMUEL SMITH: With no chance of debating them.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: Will the right hon. Gentleman give facilities for discussing the question whether Catholics are or are not idolators?

[No answer was returned.]

ANCIENT IRISH GOLD ORNAMENTS.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if he can state when he intends to carry out the promise made last year that the Government would test in a Court of Law the right of the British Museum authorities to retain in their possession certain gold ornaments found in Ireland.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The kaleidoscopic changes on this question seem to be endless. In August last the then Chief Secretary said it had recently been ascertained that the right to possession was governed by a grant of James I., confirmed by charter of Charles II., and since then doubts have arisen whether the Crown have any right to press a claim against the British Museum.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: But do the Government intend to fulfil their pledge to ascertain if the British Museum has a right to retain these ornaments?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The present Chief Secretary for Ireland has been going carefully into the matter, giving it his personal attention, and has received a deputation on the subject. If the hon. Member will communicate with my right hon. friend, all the information at the disposal of the Government would be placed before him. I may point out, however, that the doubts to which I have referred have arisen since the pledge was given.

LORD BALCARRES (Lancashire, Chorley): Will the information be laid before the House? Many Members are interested in the subject.

MR. WYNDHAM: The position of the Crown in such a matter introduces complications which make it impossible at the moment to carry out the pledge given last year.

THE BUDGET.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he can approximately fix the date for the introduction of the Budget.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I can fix no approximate date for the introduction of the Budget. It will not be in the immediate future.

NAVAL WORKS AT GIBRALTAR.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if he is now in a position to state the constitution of the proposed Committee or Commission on the Naval Works at Gibraltar, the terms of reference, and the date on which the members are to proceed to Gibraltar for the purpose of the inquiry.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: It will not be a Committee or Commission in the formal sense of the word; it will be an inquiry by experts into certain points and put before the First Lord of the Admiralty and the Secretary for War. It will be a full inquiry, but not with terms of reference, as the hon. Gentleman appears to suppose.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: Will there be a Report?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not know whether there will be a connected Report; probably separate points will be laid before different officers. It will be an informal inquiry.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): Can the First Lord give the House any information as to the course of business?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I propose to-morrow (Friday) to proceed with the Civil Service Supplementary Estimates and follow with the Navy Supplementary Estimates. On Monday I propose to move the Order for Ways and Means, and ask the House to give the Government Tuesdays for financial business up to Easter. On Tuesday I shall probably ask the House to take a Vote on Account.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: Can you give us any idea when you will move the Speaker out of the chair on going into

Committee of Supply on the Army and Navy Estimates ?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: It will not probably be necessary to move the Speaker out of the chair for the Army Estimates before the end of next week.

NEW MEMBER SWORN.

Charles Alfred Cripps, esquire, K.C., for South East Lancashire (Stretford Division).

SUPPLY.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

CIVIL SERVICE (SUPPLEMENTARY) ESTIMATES, 1900–1901.

CLASS I.

1. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £5,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Houses of Parliament Buildings."

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): I have long been waiting for this opportunity, and I hope the question I am about to raise will not be debated upon party lines. I allude to the necessity of providing for the Members of this House a new and a more airy smoking place. Those of us who make a practice of attending steadily and regularly to our duties in this House have been long groaning under an intolerable grievance in the shape of the present smoking-room accommodation.

*THE CHAIRMAN: How does the hon. Member propose to raise such a discussion upon this Vote ?

MR. DILLON: It is for the cost of certain alterations in the House of Commons.

*THE CHAIRMAN: But these alterations do not relate to the smoke-room.

MR. DILLON: My point is that they ought to relate to the smoke-room.

*THE CHAIRMAN: The discussion must be confined to the matters dealt with in this Supplementary Estimate.

MR. DILLON: How are we to know what is included ? The items are not set forth.

*THE CHAIRMAN: If the hon. Member will look on page 4 he will see them.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.): This Vote relates to the new rooms which have been placed at the disposal of the House, and I ask therefore is it not in order to discuss to what use they should be put ?

*THE CHAIRMAN: It is obvious that there is no relation between the late clerk's residence and the provision of a smoking-room.

MR. LOUGH: Would those rooms not enable us to have another smoking-room ?

MR. FLYNN (Cork, N): The present smoke-room was changed not long ago, and I believe the alteration is a portion of the expense in connection with this Vote. It will be remembered that the smoke-room has quite recently been removed to the other side of the corridor, and the present room is a very great inconvenience to the majority of the Members of this House

*THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member, to bring himself in order, must show that the late residence of the Chief Clerk ought to have been converted, or might have been converted, into a smoking-room. If he can show that, then he will be in order in discussing that, but if he is suggesting that other rooms should be devoted to a smoke-room, or that the accommodation of the present smoke-room ought to be improved, then he is not in order.

MR. DILLON: I confess that I did not think you would draw the rule so close as to say that it should be a room in the residence of the late Chief Clerk. Of course, I can argue my point upon that as well as if it were any other room in the House. This Vote provides some fresh accommodation for the members of the press, and for the warming and ventilating of a portion of the House.. My contention is that the present smoking-room is not sufficient accommodation for the Members of the House who frequent it, and I do think that it is a monstrous thing that in the House of Commons we cannot have decent accommodation in the smoke-room and the dining-room. I would prefer to take the new smoke-room from the House of Lords, but I can see that I cannot argue in favour of that proposal under your present ruling. My primary object is to get this accommodation wherever we can, and I am quite ready to accept an additional room if the First Commissioner of Works can offer one of those which belonged to the residence of the late Chief Clerk. What are the conditions to which we are subjected ? In the first place the room is not large enough, and I myself and other hon. Members have gone and found it impossible to get in, the room being so crowded, and the atmosphere absolutely unhealthy, and calculated to make one weary and ill, instead of making Members refreshed to return to business in the House. Not only is that the case, but the present smoking-room is situated over the kitchen or some other subterranean place where fires are kept up in the summer time. It looks into a closed yard in which there is no free circulation of fresh air, the consequence of which is that when summer comes it is absolutely intolerable, and I have seen the thermometer there standing at 90 degrees day after day, so that it was, practically speaking, uninhabitable. I think that that is a condition of things which the Members of the House of Commons ought not to be subjected to. At all events, if we are to have no other smoking-room accommodation except the present room, then I would ask that some attempt should be made, by a system of ventilation, to relieve the vitiated atmosphere of the room.

*THE CHAIRMAN : The hon. Member is not confining himself to the subject. The house of the late clerk is the point to which the hon. Member must confine himself.

THE FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS (Mr. AKERS DOUGLAS, Kent, St. Augustine's) : Perhaps it will shorten the debate upon this subject if I state now what the Government propose to do, and it may save a good deal of time. I fully admit the inadequacy of the present smoking-room accommodation, and it has been my earnest endeavour to improve the ventilation of that spot. Owing to the vacation of the late clerk's residence we have been able to make a different allocation of the rooms, and at the present moment there are some four or five rooms which have not been allocated on the Terrace front. I had intended to ask the House at the commencement of this session to re-appoint the House of Commons Accommodation Committee, so that they might make some recommendations upon this point. Besides further smoking-room accommodation, some hon. Members opposite require further accommodation for their private secretaries and for type-writing, and it has always been the practice of this House, that whenever structural alterations of the building take place, this should only be done upon the Report of a Committee of this House. I did not see fit last autumn to make these alterations, because I intended to move for the re-appointment of this Committee for that purpose. It is quite possible to make a decent smoking-room on the site to which I have alluded. I am not certain that it would be adequate for the large number of hon. Members who use the smoking-room, but, at all events, it would be a great improvement on the existing room, and not being over the kitchen, would be free from the smells of which the hon. Member complains, as it would be possible to ventilate it thoroughly. I will do my best to provide this extra accommodation. In regard to the other small requirements of the House, I think these had better be left to the Committee, and if the hon. Member is satisfied with my explanation I will put down a notice for the appointment of the Committee.

MR. DILLON : I rise simply to convey my grateful thanks to the right hon. Gentleman. Nothing could have been more satisfactory than his statement.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.) asked if an additional smoking room could not be provided.

MR. AKERS DOUGLAS: That is a point to which the attention of the Committee will be directed. Of course we shall be guided by the recommendations of the Committee, and we had better wait until it reports.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: When will you appoint the Committee?

MR. AKERS DOUGLAS: I will put it down on the Paper as soon as I can.

COLONEL WELBY (Taunton) said they all knew the condition of many parts of the House on a hot July day, and he would make a suggestion as to the ventilation of the lobbies——

*THE CHAIRMAN: No question arises on the lobbies.

MR. LOUGH thought that the statement of the right hon. Gentleman in regard to the appointment of a Committee was quite satisfactory, and it would be more convenient for hon. Members to bring any suggestions they had to make before the Committee rather than discuss them there. A reference was made in the Estimates to ventilation. Members had suffered greatly from the thoroughly bad ventilation of the big Committee rooms upstairs. He understood that experiments were promised a long time ago with the object of determining whether the ventilation of these rooms could be improved. He did not know whether this would come within the scope of the reference to the Committee, but he would ask whether the right hon. Gentleman could not adopt some of the simple expedients now common in other places—such as electric fans—so as to make the ventilation quite right. There was also a reference in the Vote to the increased cost of fuel. Perhaps the right hon. Gentleman could give some information on the point which might be interesting to the House, for other people had suffered from the increased price of coal. Would the right hon. Gentleman say what the Government were doing in the purchase of fuel, and whether the price was going down, so that this difficulty might soon disappear.

MR. FLYNN said he wanted some information in regard to the item under the heading D,—"Cost of furniture etc., in connection with the opening of Parliament by the King in person." He objected to this Vote *in toto*, not because the King had opened Parliament in person, but because the whole of the arrangements had been most unsatisfactory and most undignified. He would like to know what that additional furniture was and where it was placed. He had never seen any of it. The sum—£800—was not very great, but the principle involved in this Vote was important. The House had to find the money for these ceremonies, but hon. Members were deprived of any accommodation to witness them except that which they would not give a lackey. He himself had taken no part in the proceedings, because he had a distaste for ceremonials of that kind, but he had been assured by hon. Members who were there that the only accommodation they could get enabled them to gain a peep view over their neighbour's shoulders. In fact, they had no more opportunity of catching sight of the King and Queen than a man in a theatre had of securing a view of the stage if he sat behind a lady wearing a tall feathered hat. The result was that hon. Members had suffered considerable pain of mind and body. He had great sympathy with hon. Members on both sides of the House who had been engaged in the discreditable football rush towards the bar of the other House, and who, when they got there, could not even see their Majesties.

SIR BRAMPTON GURDON (Norfolk, N.) said he had placed on the Notice Paper a motion to reduce this Vote by the sum of £1,300. He would not have done so if it had really been the opening of Parliament for which they were asked to pay the reasonable expenses. But it was not the opening of Parliament, but the opening of an assembly of ladies and friends of the Lord Great Chamberlain; and it was too much to ask the British taxpayer to pay the expenses, at this time, of such a ceremony. He believed that the people who went to see this show and who had no constitutional right or necessity to be there, should pay the expenses, just as they would pay for seats at the opera or theatre. A great constitutional question was involved in this Vote, because if Parliament was to be opened by the Sovereign in person, and if the King was to deliver his gracious Speech from the Throne to the Lords and his faithful Commons, the Commons ought to be there, and it was for them that room ought to be supplied. He was not making any attack upon the right hon. Gentleman opposite. He knew it was not the right hon. Gentleman's fault, and that the matter was entirely in the hands of the Lord Great Chamberlain. He spoke not only for Members of that House, but also for Members of the other House, who had been worse treated even than the Commons were, and had been deprived of their usual seats. It was most important that the House should show that they meant to be as loyal and faithful to His Majesty the King as they were to the late Queen; but if they passed this Vote it was as much as saying that they did not value the privilege of access to His Majesty, and that they did not care to hear his gracious Speech from the Throne. He thought that, having been prevented from obeying the first command given to them by His Majesty after his accession, they should make this protest; and he hoped hon. Members would take that, the only opportunity they had, of testifying their loyalty to His Majesty by refusing to vote this sum. He moved that the Vote be reduced by the sum of £1,300.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a sum not exceeding £3,700 be granted for the said Service."—(*Sir Brampton Gurdon.*)

*COLONEL NOLAN (Galway, N.) said he might fairly support the Amendment for the reasons given by the hon. Member. He had not been in the crush, but everything had been done to put hon. Members in a position in which they were very likely to be crushed. When he got to the House of Lords he had a view of several very handsome peeresses, very prettily dressed, but he saw very little else, and had only a peep at His Gracious Majesty. But he had a much more serious reason for moving the reduction of this Vote, as he had intended doing. He thought that it would have been far better if the King had not come to open Parliament on that occasion, and the £1,300 would have been saved. Her late Majesty, when she came to open Parliament, was fulfilling a very important part of the Constitution, and therefore she was to be encouraged in doing so; but on this special occasion the King ought not to have come, and his reason for saying so was that he wished His Majesty had put off making the Declaration calling him an idolator.

*THE CHAIRMAN: Order, order! That has nothing to do with the Vote before the Committee.

*COLONEL NOLAN said he might not be allowed to argue the question, but he could not be compelled to vote £1,300 to pay the expenses of His Majesty coming, as was alleged, to open Parliament. He did not blame the King. He knew that whatever His Majesty said, he was advised to say by his responsible Ministers. If he was not allowed to give the reasons for the vote he was going to record, everyone should know why he objected to the Supplementary Estimate asked for. Not only every Roman Catholic Member, but every enlightened Protestant ought to join in the endeavour to cut it down.

MR. LABOUCHERE (Northampton) said that all this bother in the House of Commons was, as usual, due to an hereditary gentleman—the Hereditary Lord Great Chamberlain. He was perfectly convinced that if the matter had been left in the hands of the right hon. Gentleman the First Commissioner of Works, the House of Commons would not have been treated in the fashion it had been, and that hon. Members would have had allocated to them a fair space in the House of Lords when His Majesty came to deliver his gracious Speech from the Throne. He would like someone to explain how far the functions of this hereditary gentleman—the Hereditary Lord Great Chamberlain—went. He had an objection to vote anything as long as that gentleman had the disposal, in any sort of way, direct or indirect, of the funds voted by the House of Commons. He believed that there was a time when this Hereditary Great Chamberlain exercised a jurisdiction over all the palaces in the country; but, by degrees, he had been disestablished in every palace except that of Westminster. He really thought it was full time that they should claim that the Palace of Westminster, being the seat of the Legislature of the country, should be in the hands of some responsible Minister, like the right hon. Gentleman the First Commissioner of Works. He would point out that the Hereditary Great Chamberlain was a peer, and looked after his own friends — especially the peeresses. He (Mr. Labouchere) was as fond of a show as anyone else, but he had had no opportunity of seeing this one. Surely, if it became a question as to whether peeresses or the Members of the House had the privilege of witnessing the show, representatives of the Commons, who were a component part of the Legislature, had the first call in regard to space. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would take some steps to take the control of the Palace of Westminster out of the jurisdiction of the Lord High Chamberlain, and place it in the control of a responsible Minister.

*MR. JOHN ELLIS (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe) expressed a hope that the right hon. Gentleman who asked for the Vote would take notice that what had been said was a faint echo of the widespread dissatisfaction that existed in regard to this matter. On the occasion of the opening of Parliament hon. Members endeavoured to squeeze themselves into a place which could not accommodate them, and the arrangements made were such as to mar the dignity and decorum which everyone desired should permeate such an occasion. He did not look at the matter from a spectacular but a constitutional point of view. The Sovereign, the Crown, the Lords, and the Commons were the component parts of Parliament, and it was the King's command which took hon. Members to the other House, and, putting the spectacular aspect of the matter on one side, the only proper way in which the King's command could be obeyed was for proper accommodation to be made for the Commons to assemble in the House of Lords, as was desired. He had been shocked to see the way in which the House of Lords had been transformed. If the Lords cared to have their benches put up and stacked away and narrow wooden benches erected for themselves and their peeresses, certainly he did not object. But outside the space of the actual technical House of Lords the Commons had the first claim. He would like to know why Members were deprived of the possibility of going into the galleries in the House of Lords which were reserved for them, especially when those galleries were not fully occupied. The only remedy for preventing a recurrence of the unseemly spectacle which was witnessed on this occasion was that steps should be taken—and they could be taken at the beginning of a new reign, for of course the Crown was above precedent as regards its own high officials —to put the Lord Great Chamberlain in his proper place in these matters.

MAJOR JAMESON (Clare, W.) also protested against the arrangements which were made for the reception of the House of Commons when they started to obey the King. Many reasons had been given to show that the First Commissioner of Works was not to blame, but he considered that that Gentleman was entirely to blame. In the unseemly crush which took place when the House was summoned to hear the Speech from the Throne, he had been content to put up with the loss of a hat, but one hon. Member had been so injured that he had never been out of bed since. Until the House received some kind of apology from the right hon. Gentleman for what had occurred, when he knew, under the circumstances, that all Members of the House would like to attend, he should consider he was to blame for not making arrangements with the Lord Great Chamberlain on the subject.

*MR. STEVENSON (Suffolk, Eye) was glad that this opportunity had been taken for adequately expressing the widespread feeling of dissatisfaction which prevailed on this subject. A short time since he had put a question to the First Lord of the Treasury as to the advisability of appointing a Committee to consider the comparative merits of Westminster Hall as a place where Parliament might be convened. The proceedings on the opening day marked a complete divergence of the theory and the practice of Parliament, and they were, in so far as the House of Commons was concerned, a positive scandal. Until the reign of Henry VII., and possibly on some subsequent occasions, the opening of Parliament took place in the Painted Chamber, the Lords sitting on the one side and the Commons on the other; and at this date, when the Painted Chamber was no longer in existence, the chamber which most closely approximated was Westminster Hall. The cost of utilising what was acknowledged to be the grandest hall in England would not greatly exceed the cost at present involved in opening Parliament.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE (Wexford, N.) said it appeared to him that in this particular case the House of Commons was in the same position as an Irish county council in connection with the court-houses in Ireland. They built and maintained the court-houses, yet those court-houses were not in their control, but in the control of the High Sheriff. In this case the House of Commons paid the money, and the control was in the Lord Great Chamberlain. He should certainly go into the lobby against the Vote asked for. He intended to vote against the proposal as an expression of his feeling in connection with the proceedings at the opening of Parliament.

MR. AKERS DOUGLAS: I am not at all surprised at the dissatisfaction which has been expressed by the Committee with regard to the arrangements made at the opening of Parliament. As many hon. Members on the other side of the House were kind enough to say, those arrangements were not in my hands or in the hands of the Government. It has always been my wish on these occasions to represent in the proper quarter that accommodation of a suitable character should be found for the House of Commons. But so far as I am concerned, I have no power in this matter to act for the House of Commons. With regard to the particular question and the jurisdiction of the Lord Great Chamberlain, I venture to offer the protest that this is hardly the opportunity when complaints in regard to that distinguished officer can be made. All we are asked on the present occasion to do is to vote a sum of money with regard to certain arrangements made for the opening of Parliament in the House of Lords, arrangements made not by the Great Chamberlain's office, but by the Department I represent. I hope I shall be able to justify that expenditure and show, if pressed, that the actual amount of money spent has been represented by the goods provided. But with regard to the general question of the convenience of Members on that occasion, I would point out that I recognise that the House of Commons is properly dissatisfied with the arrangements then made, but I think that that dissatisfaction is general not only to the House of Commons, but to the other House and to the public at large. I am quite sure that there is no one in this country more anxious to provide proper accommodation for his faithful Commons than His Majesty the King. With regard to Westminster Hall, the hon. Member who has just sat down has made an appeal to me, and although I agree with him as to the suitability of the building, I wish to put on record a protest with regard to the expenditure likely to be incurred. I should like to guard myself in that maattr, because undoubtedly the expenses would be considerable in providing accommodation.

*MR. STEVENSON: My only point with regard to expenditure is that Westminster Hall would require little decoration.

MR. AKERS DOUGLAS: With regard to decoration, yes; but with regard to stands and other things I may tell the hon. Member that I have taken pains to go into the figures, and to get these things would involve considerable expenditure, but I do not think there need be a difficulty; if both Houses are agreed and if the King is pleased to agree, in making the necessary alterations.

May I point out that not only did we recognise that the accommodation at present is unsatisfactory, but that we have at once met the appeals made to us from both sides of the House to find some remedy, and my right hon. friend the Leader of the House at once consented to the appointment of a committee to take into consideration not only the accommodation available in the House of Lords, but also the advisability of substituting Westminster Hall for use on similar occasions? That motion has been on the Paper two or three nights, and it is only owing to the action of hon. Members from Ireland who complain of the general arrangements on that occasion that that motion has not received the approval of the House of Commons. I hope that the motion may be carried to-day, especially after the discussion we have had. Before that committee the whole of the subject can be raised in a much fuller way, with all the materials required before it, than can be the case on the present occasion. I trust, in view of the anxiety expressed by the Government to meet the views of Members on both sides, the Committee will not only agree to the expenditure which has been incurred for the opening of Parliament this year, but also allow us to proceed with the motion to-night for the committee to inquire into the providing of proper accommodation on a future occasion.

MR. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy Burghs) thought the House would recognise the very sympathetic reply of the right hon. Gentleman. He was sure they were all agreed that if the arrangements had been in his hands the state of things that existed would not have occurred. The right hon. Gentleman had told them that this was not the occasion to raise this point. The hon. Member would like to know when the occasion would arise. This gentleman's salary did not come up on the Estimates, and they had practically no other occasion whatever for raising the question. It appeared to him that if they were dissatisfied at the insult offered to the House of Commons it was the duty of the House to refuse to vote this money, as a protest against the system. If the individual responsible for what had happened had brains he ought to have foreseen the state of things. He himself did not attempt to get into that portion of the House of Lords which was allocated to Members of the House of Commons on that particular day. The individual responsible must have known that the House of Commons would be summoned to the House of Lords, and if he had only calculated the space required he would have come to the conclusion that it was impossible to have his own particular friends and the peeresses present on that occasion. There was another matter, and that was the ridiculous arrangements made for the press on that occasion. The accommodation for the press was materially limited, in fact only comparatively few selected newspapers were represented, and many important journals in the country were unable to have their representatives there. In fact, in his opinion, they were treated in the most contemptuous way by the individual responsible. That was a state of things which deserved severe condemnation, and showed utter incapacity on the part of the person responsible. There were persons in the House of Lords that day who had no more claim to be there than the man in the street. It seemed to him to be part of the general policy pursued in reference to recent processions and other things. If it were in order to discuss them now he should say something of the arrangements made on the occasion of her late Majesty's funeral, but it was impossible to enter upon that matter now. It showed to him that there was a feeling practically of contempt with regard to that House on the part of the individual responsible, for this treatment was continued. This official seemed to think that he might pursue that course, because the House of Commons did not vote his salary.

SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT (Sheffield, Ecclesall) said everyone who experienced the inconvenience arising from the arrangements made for the opening of Parliament must feel that there was great neglect of the interests of that House, but he was not at all sure that they were fair in laying all responsibility, or indeed any very large share of it, on the Lord Great Chamberlain. No doubt these affairs were governed by precedent. He thought there was great want of a sense of responsibility on the part of the Government to see that the House of Commons was properly looked after on the occasion. The right hon. Gentleman said he was not responsible. What he wanted to know was, which member of the Government —there were twenty of them—was responsible for seeing that the House of Commons was treated with ordinary decorum? The hon. Member for the Kirkcaldy Burghs had referred to the want of arrangement on the occasion of Her late Majesty's funeral. That want was most deplorable.

*THE CHAIRMAN: That matter cannot be raised on this Vote.

SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT: Quite so. He would say no more about it. He only referred to it, not to argue the matter, but as an illustration of the necessity for some new arrangement being made in the interests of the House of Commons. He suggested that either some special official should be appointed to look after the interests of the House of Commons, or that the Government should distinctly depute his right hon. friend the First Commissioner of Works to deal with this question. Then no doubt they would have all the arrangements satisfactory. He was quite certain that there was no person in the realm who would regret the want of proper accommodation for Members of the House of Commons more than His Majesty himself. He thought if proper representations had been made to him by someone, the interests of the House of Commons would have been better looked after.

MR. DALY (Monaghan, S.) said the interest of the Nationalist Members in this question had reference to the money involved. He had no sympathy at all with hon. Members who got jostled in the rush to the House of Lords. He thought those who were crushed deserved all they got on the occasion. He rose to ask the right hon. Gentleman a question with regard to the new smoke-room.

*THE CHAIRMAN said it would not be in order to raise that matter on this Vote.

MR. HEYWOOD JOHNSTONE Sussex, Horsham) said he was very glad that, on the occasion referred to, the side galleries, usually available in the House of Lords for Members of the House of Commons, were not open to them. If they had been he was quite certain that a larger number would have shared in the discomforts of the occasion. He did not think that any of the Members who had spoken had grappled with the real difficulty of this question. It was not to be solved by making the office of Lord Great Chamberlain an elective one, or by any method of that sort. The real difficulty was to get the quart of the House of Commons into the pint of the House of Lords. The House of Commons could not attend His Majesty as a whole, and it would be well to consider whether some small number of Members should not be selected to represent the House.

MR. BAYLEY (Derbyshire, Chesterfield) said he would vote for the reduction of this Vote. The Government had proposed a Committee to deal with this subject, but the Committee would have no legal right to go to the Lord Great Chamberlain and ask him to do anything on their behalf. If the House had the moral courage to protect its own dignity and constitutional rights in connection with the granting of money when they were treated as they had been, things would be managed differently on such occasions. He would support the Government and the Committee in the action they were taking.

MR. DILLON said he should be sorry to allow it to be supposed that the Irish Members had any grievance in not getting into the House of Lords. They had not the slightest desire to enter the House of Lords, and they watched with amusement and surprise the degradation of others of the House. If the Members of the House had any proper sense of their own dignity they would let these high and mighty persons know that if they were going to treat them with contempt they must put their hands into their own breeches pockets. If the House of Commons refused to pay the bill, ample accommodation would be forthcoming on the next occasion. He heartily agreed with the sentiment expressed by one hon. Member who said that on the occasion referred to they had been treated as they deserved to be. He had never attended any of these ceremonials, but during the time he had been in the House he had seen Members come there after great ceremonials weeping, lamenting, and bewailing the gross insults with which they had been treated. On one occasion they went in procession through Victoria Street to present congratulations to the Queen in connection with the Jubilee, and they were practically kicked downstairs, and he found the House of Commons literally boiling with indignation over the treatment to which they had been subjected. That had been repeated over and over again, and until the House of Commons did some specific act different from grumblings and growlings, and showed that they were not going to submit to that treatment, they would be treated in the same way. They had a simple way of stopping it if they chose, and that was by stopping the supplies. Let it be known that if they were going to carry on ceremonials at the public expense they must treat the House of Commons with civility, and that otherwise the House of Lords could raise a subscription for these entertainments. He thought they would then find that the Lord Great Chamberlain would become civil to the House of Commons. The right hon. Gentleman opposite had on these occasions done his best for the House of Commons. He trusted sincerely that if they passed the Vote they would get kicked out as before.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny) said he rose to call attention to the accommodation provided in the press gallery of the House of Commons. He was not sure that it was in order to do so under this Vote.

*THE CHAIRMAN said the Amendment which had been moved related solely to the provision for the opening of Parliament, and the debate must be confined to that.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN gave notice that on another occasion he would call attention to the fact that, in his opinion, there was not proper accommodation in the press gallery.

MR. JORDAN (Fermanagh, S.) said there were no details given of the expenditure, and they were absolutely in the dark as to what the money was asked for. They did not know whether they had got fair value for the money or not.

MR. O'DOHERTY (Donegal, N.) said the remark made by the hon. Member for South Fermanagh showed the Ulster keenness about pounds, shillings, and pence. As an Irish Member he had no fault to find with the accommodation provided at the opening of Parliament, but he suggested that in connection with the Coronation ceremony a few hundred pounds should be spent in providing ambulances for Members of the House who at risk of life and limb attempted to attend. Moreover, it would be as well that Irish Catholic Members should not be asked to go to the House of Lords on such occasions to hear their religion insulted.

SIR BRAMPTON GURDON thought that to go to a division was the only means the House had of apologising to the King for not obeying his command. Furthermore, as the hon. Member for Rushcliffe Division had truly said, if the Lord Great Chamberlain had removed the benches from the House of Commons, that House would very soon have wanted to know the reason why. The Lords, however, have no constitutional privileges in this way, and so were obliged to suffer. The House of Commons, therefore, should have some feeling for the House of Lords, and help them where they could not help themselves.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick's) would not have intervened but for the remarks of a previous speaker. Being an Irish Member he had no desire to assist in the House of Lords at the opening of Parliament, especially when the King used an Oath which in the opinion of Catholics was blasphemous—

*THE CHAIRMAN: Order, order! I have already pointed out more than once that the matter is not one to be discussed on this Vote.

MR. FIELD did not propose to discuss the matter further than to say that as an Irish Member——

*THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member is not entitled to say anything further after I have told him it would be disorderly to refer to the matter. He really must not go on with the subject.

MR. FIELD said that while the Irish Members had no desire to go into the House of Lords, they insisted on sufficient accommodation being provided for Members of the House of Commons. He could not understand why an invitation should be given if no accommodation was provided. If the noble Lords, who occasionally came down for a few minutes to carry on or to obstruct the business of the country, occupied all the available room, there was no use in requiring the Members of the House of Commons to attend, and the Vote should be opposed by all hon. Gentlemen who had any respect for their own dignity.

MR. TULLY (Leitrim, S.) asked for further details as to the expenditure under discussion. There was an item of £200 for the extension of electric lighting to the Royal Gallery; another £200 for additional supply of electric current; and £1,400 for additional cost of fuel, mainly in respect of steam coal used by the engineering branch. What was the steam coal required for? No justification had been given for the expenditure of such a large sum. The electric light was supplied from the electric mains; therefore, why should there be this additional expenditure in regard to steam coal?

MR. AKERS DOUGLAS: Those items are not in connection with the opening of Parliament at all. The £1,400 is mainly in respect of steam coal used by the engineering branch during the year, and, as everyone knows, the price of coal has enormously increased during that period. With regard to the £200 for supply of electric current, that is an additional sum owing entirely to the fact that Parliament met for an autumn session, and also for a short period in January of this year, over and above the period for which the estimate was made. As to the provision of the electric light in the Royal Gallery, that is not merely for the occasion of the opening of Parliament, but for all time; it is for the supply of standards and so on in a portion of the House which has not been used for forty years for similar purposes. The furniture consisted of curtains, etc., and seating accommodation in the House of Lords, the Royal Gallery, the Robing Room, and other apartments in that portion of the House.

COLONEL NOLAN: Are they the perquisites of the Lord Great Chamberlain after the ceremony is over?

MR. AKERS DOUGLAS: No.

MR. TULLY thought the valuable information the right hon. Gentleman had volunteered proved that the criticism from the Irish benches had some foundation. As to this £800 for furniture, was that of a permanent character, or would a similar amount be required each time the King opened Parliament in person?

MR. AKERS DOUGLAS: This is not a sum which will appear again. The furniture was required in consequence of the fact that it is something like forty years since Parliament has been opened in state. This furniture will always be available in future.

MR. JORDAN asked whether the furniture in question was supplied under contract, or were tenders invited?

MR. AKERS DOUGLAS was understood to reply that all furniture was supplied under a contract extending over a period of years.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 167; Noes, 219. (Division List No. 20.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Allan, William (Gateshead)
Allen, Charles P (Glouc., Stroud
Ambrose, Robert
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt Hn. Herbert Henry
Atherley-Jones, L.
Barlow, John Emmott
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Boyle, James
Brand, Hon. Arthur G.
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carew, James Laurence
Carvill, Patrick Geo. Hamilton
Cawley, Frederick

Cogan, Denis J.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Colville, John
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Cullinan, J.
Daly, James
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies,M.Vaughan-(Cardigan
Delany, William
Dewar, John A.(Inverness-sh.
Dillon, John
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, James H.
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank
Elibank, Master of
Emmott, Alfred
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Fison, Frederick William
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir W. (Derby Co.)
Fuller, J. M. F.
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gilhooly, James
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Haldane, Richard Burdon
Hammond, John
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne, Rt. Hon. C. Seale-
Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir A. D.
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hn. Charles H.
Hobhouse, H. (Somerset, E.)
Holland, William Henry
Hope, John D. (Fife, West)
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jones,DavidBrynmor(Swans'a
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kinloch,SirJohnGeorgeSmyth
Labouchere, Henry
Langley, Batty
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese,SirJosephF.(Accrington
Leng, Sir John
Levy, Maurice
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall
M'Crae, George
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Fadden, Edward
M'Govern, T.
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
M'Laren, Charles Benjamin
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Mooney, John J.
Morley, Charles (Breconshire)
Morley,Rt Hn.John(Montrose
Moulton, John Flethher
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph J.
Nolan,Col.JohnP.(Galway,N.)
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien,Kendal(Tippera'yMid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor,James(Wicklow,W.
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, William
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly,James(RoscommonN.
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Palmer,GeorgeWm.(Reading)
Partington, Oswald
Philipps, John Wynford
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, Robert John
Rea, Russell
Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Redmond, JohnE.(Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Reid, Sir R. T. (Dumfries)
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Robson, William Snowdon
Roche, John
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scott, C. Prestwich (Leigh)
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Stevenson, Francis S.
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
Thomson, F.W. (York, W.R.)
Tomkinson, James
Tully, Jasper
Walton, J. Lawson (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wason,Eugene (Clackmannan
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Patrick(Meath, North
Whiteley,George(York,W.R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wilson, H. J. (York, W. R.)
Woodhouse,SirJT(Huddersf'd
Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir Brampton Gurdon and
Mr. Robert Wallace.

NOES.

Acland-Hood,Capt.SirAlex.F
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Aird, Sir John
Allhusen, Augustus Hy. Eden
Allsopp, Hon. George
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arrol, Sir William
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Austin, Sir John
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird,John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour,Rt.Hon.A.J.(Manch'r
Balfour,RtHnGerald W(Leeds
Banbury, Frederick George
Barry,SirFrancis T.(Windsor)
Bartley, George C. T.
Beach,RtHn.SirM.H.(Bristol)
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Bowles,T.Gibson(King'sLynn)
Brassey, Albert
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Brown,AlexanderH.(Shropsh.
Bullard, Sir Harry
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish,V.C.W (Derbyshire
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain,Rt.Hon.J(Birm.
Chamberlain,J.Austen(Worc'r
Chamberlayne,T. (S'thampton
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Cochrane,Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colston,Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Corbett,A.Cameron(Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cranborne, Viscount
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Dewar,T.R.(T'rH'mlets,SGeo.
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dimsdale,Sir Joseph Cockfield
Dixon-Hartland,Sir F.Dixon
Dorington, Sir John Edward
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, SirWilliamTheodore
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, George Denison
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hon. AilwynEdward

Fergusson,Rt.HnSirJ.(Manc'r
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald,SirRobertPenrose-
Fitzroy,Hon.EdwardAlgernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Forster, Henry William
Godson,SirAugustusFrederick
Gordon,Hn.J.E.(Elgin&Nairn
Gore, Hon F. S. Ormsby-
Gorst, Rt.Hn. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon GeorgeJoachim
Graham, Henry Robert
Green,WalfordD.(Wednesb'ry
Greene,SirEW(B'rySEdm'nds
Groves James Grimble
Hall, Edward Marshall
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton,Rt.Hn.Ld.G.(Midx
Hamilton,Marq.of(Londndrry
Hanbury,Rt.Hn.Robert Wm.
Hardy,Laurence(Kent,Ashf'rd
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, F. L. (Tynemouth)
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Arthur, H. (Hanley)
Heath, J. (Staffords., N. W.)
Henderson, Alexander
Hermon-Hodge, R. Trotter
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope,J.F.(Sheffi'ld,Brightside
Houldsworth, Sir Wm.Henry
Hoult, Joseph
Howard, Capt. J.(Faversham)
Howard,J. (Midd.,Tottenham
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir J. H.
Kenyon-Slaney,Col.W.(Salop
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Knowles, Lees
Lambton, Hon. Fredk. Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawson, John Grant
Lecky, Rt.Hn. Wm. Edw. H.
Lee,Capt.A.H.(Hants,Farehm
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennet, Henry Currie
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Loder,Gerald Walter Erskine
Long,Rt.Hn.Walter(Bristol,S)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas,Col.Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas,ReginaldJ.(Portsmouth
Macartney,RtHnW.G.Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Calmont,Col.J.(Antrim,E.)
M'Iver,SirLewis(EdinburghW
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Maple, Sir John Blundell
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell,W.J.H.(Dumfriessh.
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Milward, Colonel Victor
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
More,Robt.Jasper(Shropshire)
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow)
Morgan,Hn.Fred (Monm'hsh.)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morris,Hon. Martin Henry F.
Morton,ArthurH.A.(Deptford
Murray,RtHnA Graham(Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry
Murray,Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Newdigate,Francis Alexander
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Renshaw, Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Ritchie,RtHon.Chas.Thomson
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Round, James
Rutherford, John
Sackville,Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler,Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, Harry S.(Limehouse)
Sandys,Lieut.-Col.ThosMyles
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Seely,Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
Shaw-Stewart,M.H.(Renfrew)
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Smith,Abel H.(Hertford,East)
Smith,H.C.(Nrthmb.Tyneside
Smith,JamesParker(Lanarks.)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D.(Strand)
Spear, John Ward
Spencer, Ernest(W.Bromwich
Stanley, Edw. Jas. (Somerset)
Stewart, Sir M. J. M'Taggart
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Stroyan, John
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Talbot,Rt.Hn.J.G(Oxf'dUniv
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Thornton, Percy M.
Tufnell, Colonel Edward
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent,Col.SirC.E.H.(Sh'ffd
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Walker, Col. William Hall
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Wason, J. Cathcart (Orkney)
Welby,Lt-Col.A.C.E.(Tauntn
Welby, Sir C. G. E. (Notts.)
Whiteley,H.(Ashton-u.-Lyne)
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wills, Sir Frederick
Wilson, A. S. (York, E. R.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd, Wm.H.(Yorks)
Wodehouse,Rt.Hn.E.R(Bath)
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C.B. Stuart-
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

Original Question again proposed.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN asked whether the Committee to be appointed would be empowered to inquire into the necessity of better accommodation for the press, and of a fairer distribution of the seats already provided?

MR. AKERS DOUGLAS replied that in answer to a similar question on the previous day the First Lord of the Treasury said the matter was barely within the reference.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: What I am dealing with is the Press Gallery in this House.

MR. AKERS DOUGLAS: Oh, I beg the hon. Member's pardon.

THE CHAIRMAN: That will not arise on this Vote at all. I thought the hon. Member was referring to the accommodation in the House of Lords.

Question put and agreed to.

2. Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £2,500, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March,

1901, for Expenditure in respect of Art and Science Buildings, Great Britain."

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE asked whether a corresponding supplementary Vote would be submitted with regard to similar buildings in Ireland?

MR. AKERS DOUGLAS: I do not think that really arises here, but I am only too glad to answer any question. I understand the hon. Baronet to ask whether there is a corresponding Vote required for Ireland. I will endeavour to obtain that information, but I am not responsible for any buildings outside Great Britain.

MR. DILLON said the Committee knew there would not be a corresponding Vote for Ireland, as the present represented the whole of the Civil Service Supplementary Estimate for the year. This Vote was claimed simply and solely on account of the increased price of coal. The point of the hon. Baronet was why, if this Supplementary Estimate was necessary in regard to public buildings in England and Scotland, was not a corresponding Vote required in connection with similar public buildings in Ireland? There should be some proof that this was a *bona fide* claim due to a real deficit caused by the increase in the price of coal. Were the Committee to understand that in Ireland when coal rose in price the unfortunate inhabitants were obliged to shiver and do without coal in order to keep within the Estimate, while in Great Britain a different principle was applied?

MR. AKERS DOUGLAS: As I pointed out to the Committee, I am quite prepared to justify the Vote which I am asking for in regard to the extra expenditure due to the higher price of coal, so far as it affects those buildings for which I am responsible. But it is not for me to say whether the Secretary to the Treasury, who administers the public buildings in Ireland, has been more fortunate in his contracts. I can only tell the House what has occurred in regard to the price of coal in the buildings for which I am responsible in England. I will take this opportunity of answering the question put to me by the hon. Member opposite, which applies to all these Votes. The reasons for the extra cost in the coal contracts for the year are two. In the first place there was a very large increase in the cost of steam coal since the time that the original estimates were prepared. There has been a very great increase in this respect, and consequently we have had to ask for more money for the warming and the lighting of these buildings. The other reason is because we have a different system in vogue now to that which has hitherto been the practice. We are paying this year for fourteen months supply of coal in the place of twelve months, because we are now supplying ourselves directly from the pit's mouth, instead of supplying ourselves through the middlemen and contractors in London; and we are paying ready money for our coals instead of paying quarterly, so that we are asking for a larger sum than if we bought under the old system. This is an advantage, because we get a very much better class of coal, and we have the control of the supply in our hands. We also get the advantage of the overweight which is always given when dealing direct with the colliery. We have saved in efficiency at least 15 per cent., and at least 5 per cent. in the overweight, besides securing a better quality of coal.

MR. JORDAN thought that in view of the fact that the right hon. Gentleman had been buying coal at cost price, and also getting the overweight, he would have been able to reduce and not increase the sum required for coal.

MR. AKERS DOUGLAS: We should have had to pay a great deal more, owing to the extra price of coal, had we not been able to make this economical arrangement under the new system of purchasing direct from the collieries.

MR. JORDAN said that possibly this explanation was satisfactory, but he did not understand how that explanation could apply to such articles as water and household furniture.

MR. AKERS DOUGLAS: If the hon. Member will look at the bottom of the page he will see that the extra cost is due to the increase in the price of steam coal.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 271; Noes, 74. (Division List, No. 21.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood,Capt.SirAlex.F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allen,CharlesP(Glouc.,Stroud
Allhusen, Augustus Hy. Eden
Allsopp, Hon. George
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arrol, Sir William
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith,RtHonHerbertHenry
Atherley-Jones, L.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Austin, Sir John
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird,John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour,Rt.Hon.A.J.(Manch'r
Balfour,RtHnGeraldW(Leeds
Banbury, Frederick George
Barlow, John Emmott
Bartley, George C. T.
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Beach,RtHn.SirM.H.(Bristol)
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Col. Henry
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles,T.Gibson(King'sLynn
Brassey, Albert
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry,
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Brown,AlexanderH.(Shropsh.
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Bullard, Sir Harry
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish,V.C.W(Derbyshire
Cawley, Frederick
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt.Hn.J.(Birm.
Chamberlain, J. A. (Worc'r)
Chamberlayne,T.(S'thampton
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Cochrane,Hon.Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colston, Chas. Edw. H.Athole
Colville, John
Corbett,A.Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Craig, Robert Hunter
Cranborne, Viscount
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Dewar,T.R.(T'rH'mlets,SGeo.
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dimsdale,SirJoseph Cockfield
Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
Dorington, Sir John Edward
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, SirWilliamTheodore
Duncan, James H.
Dunn, Sir William
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Edwards, Frank
Elibank, Master of
Emmott, Alfred
Faber, George Denison
Fardell, Sir T. George
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Fellowes,Hon.AilwynEdward
Fenwick, Charles
Fergusson,RtHn.SirJ.(Manc'r
Fielden,Edward Brocklehurst
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
Fitzroy,Hon.EdwardAlgernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Sir W. (Derby Co.)
Fuller, J. M. F.
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gladstone, Rt.Hon.Herbert J.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gordon,Hn.J.E.(Elgin&Nairn
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John E.
Goschen, Hon.GeorgeJoachim
Grant, Corrie
Greene,SirEW(B'rySEdm'nds
Groves, James Grimble
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Haldane, Richard Burdon
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton,Rt.Hn.Ld.G.(Midx.
Hamilton,Marq.of(Londndrry
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Rbt. Wm.
Hardy,Laurence(Kent,Ashfrd.
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harris,F.Leverton(Tynem'th
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayne, Rt.Hon.CharlesSeale-
Hayter, Rt. Hn.SirArthur D.
Heath, A. Howard (Hanley)
Heath,James (Staffords.N.W.
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Alexander
Hermon-Hodge, R. Trotter
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hobhouse, H. (Somerset, E.)
Hogg, Lindsay
Holland, William Henry
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Hoult, Joseph
Howard,Capt. J. (Faversham)
Howard, J.(Midd., Tottenham
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Kennaway,Rt.Hn. Sir JohnH.
Kenyon-Slaney,Col. W(Salop)
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Kinloch, Sir John Geo. Smyth
Knowles, Lees
Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawson, John Grant
Lecky, Rt. Hn. Wm. Edw. H.
Lee,Capt.A.H.(Hants,Farehm
Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Levy, Maurice
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long,RtHn.Walter(Bristol,S.
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas,ReginaldJ(Portsmouth
Macartney,RtHnW.G.Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Arthur, William(Cornwall)
M'Calmont,Col.J.(Antrim,E.)
M'Crae, George
M'Iver,SirLewis(EdinburghW
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, James (Stirlingsh.)
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell,W.J.H.(Dumfriessh.
Milner,Rt.Hn.SirFrederickG.
Milward, Colonel Victor
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
More,Robt.Jasper(Shropshire)
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow)
Morgan,Hn.Fred.(Monm'thsh.
Morley, Charles (Breconshire)
Morley,Rt.Hn.John(Montrose
Morrell, George Herbert
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Morton,ArthurH.A.(Deptford
Murray,RtHnA.Graham(Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col.Wyndham(Bath)
Newdigate, FrancisAlexander
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Philipps, John Wynford
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Price, Robert John
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Reid, Sir R. T. (Dumfries)
Renshaw, Charles Bine
Rentoul, James Alexander
Renwick, George
Rickett, J. Compton
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas.T.
Robson, William Snowdon
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Round, James
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, John
Sackville, Col. S. G.Stopford-
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alex.
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)

Sandys, Lt.-Col. Thos. Myles
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Shaw-Stewart,M.H. (Renfrew
Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford,E.)
Smith,H.C.(Nrthmb.Tyneside
Smith, JamesParker(Lanarks
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Edw. Jas. (Somerset)
Stewart,SirMarkJ.M‘Taggart
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir JohnM.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Stroyan, John
Strutt, Hon. Chas. Hedley
Talbot,Rt.Hn.J.G(Oxf'dUniv
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
Thomson, F. W. (York, W.R.)
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomkinson, James
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw.Murray
Tufnell, Col. Edward
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Sir C.E.H.(Sheffield)
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Walker, Col. Wm. Hall
Walton, J. Lawson (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Wason,Eugene (Clackmannan
Wason, John C. (Orkney)
Welby,Lt.Col.A.C.E.(Tauntn
Welby, Sir C. G. E. (Notts)
Whiteley,H. (Ashton-u.-Lyne
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wills, Sir Frederick
Wilson,A.Stanley(York,E.R.
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd, Wm.H.(Yorks.)
Wodehouse,Rt.Hn.E.R.(Bath
Wortley, Rt.Hon. C.B.Stuart-
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, Rt.Hon. George
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham,William(Cork,N.E.)
Ambrose, Robert
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Boyle, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Carew, James Laurence
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Cullinan, J.
Daly, James
Dalziel, James Henry
Delany, William
Dillon, John
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Farrell, James Patrick
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Gilhooly, James
Hammond, John
Hayden, John Patrick
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Leng, Sir John
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
M‘Dermott, Patrick
M‘Fadden, Edward
M‘Govern, T.
M‘Killop,W.(Sligo, North)
M‘Laren, Charles Benjamin
Mooney, John J.
Moulton, John Fletcher
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Col.JohnP.(Galway,N.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien,Kendal(Tipper'y,Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, Jas. (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, William
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, Jas. (Roscommon,N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Reddy, M.
Redmond,John E.(Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roche, John
Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
Sullivan, Donal
Tully, Jasper
White,Patrick (Meath,North)
Whiteley,George(York,W.R.)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Woodhouse,SirJT(Huddersf'd
Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Sir Thomas Esmonde and
Captain Donelan.

3. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £2,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for Expenditure in respect of Diplomatic and Consular Buildings."

MR. DILLON said this Vote was a glaring example of a custom which had grown from year to year since the present Government came into office, and which threatened to be a great public nuisance. He alluded to the system of covering the Notice Paper with Supplementary Estimates in almost every department of the public service. When he first came to the House of Commons Supplementary Estimates were very few, and it was considered to be a reproach to any Minister to be compelled to put down a Supplementary Estimate unless he could allege some unforeseen circumstances. When a Minister came down to the House of Commons in past years and asked for a Supplementary Estimate he was always on the defensive, and he was bound to make out some special cause for his action. Consequently Ministers bringing forward such Estimates always rose and made a statement in regard to the grounds upon which the money was asked for. Nowadays, Ministers seemed to be proud of Supplementary Estimates, and the number and the amount of them was growing year by year. The original Estimate for Diplomatic and Consular Buildings was £30,000, and they were now asked, without any details whatever, to add to that sum an additional £2,000 for the maintenance and alterations of those buildings. The reason given for this extra expenditure in the Estimate was as follows—

> "Sundry urgent works, some due to changes of occupation, not anticipated when the original Estimate was prepared, were required to be carried out at, among other places, Vienna Embassy House, Brussels and Lisbon Legation Houses, and Cairo Agency House."

What was the meaning of "urgent works"? What were the urgent works necessary in the embassy and legation houses at Vienna and Lisbon? These urgent works were not anticipated at the beginning of the financial year, and why could they not have waited? He should like to know why the right hon. Gentleman had departed from the good and orthodox system of endeavouring to keep within the original Estimate unless something really urgent occurred.

MR. AKERS DOUGLAS said that this increase of £2,000 was almost entirely due to changes in the *personnel* in the diplomatic and consular service which had rendered a change of occupants necessary. A certain amount of expense for the redecoration and repair of official residences upon a change of consul or ambassador was unavoidable. It was the custom, even in private life, when a man had been in possession of a house for a certain time to incur a certain amount of expense in order to prepare it for his successor.

MR. J. P. FARRELL (Longford, N.) did not think that the explanation of the right hon. Gentleman was satisfactory, for this large expense seemed to have been incurred without steps being taken to carry out the work in the most economical way. He thought hon. Members from Ireland were only exercising their ordinary rights in closely criticising the proposals of the Government in the smallest detail. As an Irish Member he strongly protested against the Government having a free hand in expenditure of this kind without taking contracts in the usual way. Unless some more satisfactory explanation was given he would move a substantial reduction in the Vote. He thought they were entitled to demand a more explicit statement in regard to this increased expenditure than that which they had received from the right hon. Gentleman, and he begged to move the reduction of this Vote by £2,000.

*THE CHAIRMAN: That is the total amount of the Vote.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: Then I will move to reduce it by £200.

Motion made, and Question put, "That a sum, not exceeding £1,800, be granted for the said service."—(*Mr. J. P. Farrell.*)

MR. DILLON said the explanation of the right hon. Gentleman was by no means satisfactory. The only ground given for the increased Estimate of £2,000 was that changes had occurred in our embassies. Changes were always occurring in our embassies or agencies. It was the average state of things, and it ought to have been in the power of the Government to produce a more reasonable Estimate than the one before the Committee. He was aware that it was not reasonable to press unduly for details in the Estimates, because the elaborate details were matters for the Committee of Accounts, but the persons responsible for preparing the Estimates were surely bound to go so far as to let the Committee know where the money had been spent. The Estimates showed that £2,000 had been spent in Vienna, Brussels, Lisbon, and Cairo, and the Committee was entitled to know how much had been spent on each house. The real reason for his protest against this particular Estimate was the extraordinary statement of the First Lord of the Treasury on a previous occasion, that it was the practice of the Committee of Supply never to examine the Estimates. Such a practice would open the floodgates to every kind of jobbery and loose expenditure, if a Minister wished to make any additions to his house, if such openings were afforded by such a statement being made beforehand that it was the settled practice not to examine the Estimate. He protested against such a statement being made. It was the duty of the Committee to examine the Estimates with great care, and to endeavour to remove any abuses and ensure economy in the financial business of the nation.

SIR WALTER FOSTER (Derby, Ilkeston) desired to emphasise the views just put before the House, and appealed for a more definite explanation of that increase in the Estimate which, though small in itself, was a considerable amount when one considered the amount of the original Estimate. With a very little consideration, the Government ought to have been able to provide in the ordinary Estimates sufficient to cover these charges, but with the want of foresight which was so great a characteristic of the Government, they could not even look twelve months ahead.

MR. LABOUCHERE said in his opinion the Vote ought to be reduced by at least £1,000, if at all, because although it might be necessary to keep up such establishments at Vienna and Brussels, it certainly was not at Lisbon and Cairo. At the time it was proposed to buy these houses he protested against it because it would lead to increased expenditure. It was unnecessary to bring into the present Estimates the residencies at Lisbon and Cairo, and therefore he should vote for the reduction.

MR. POWER (Waterford, E.) said that the Supplementary Estimate, although not large in itself, presented a large percentage of increase. He endorsed the remarks of the Member for East Mayo. When the First Lord introduced the Rule for the guillotining of the debate, it was pointed out that it would lead to a certain amount of looseness in preparing the Estimates, and when those who were in the House in the eighties recalled the trouble Ministers took to explain every Vote, they would recognise the change which had come over the practice of the House in the discussion of the financial business of the country, and that every year the amount of information given by the Ministers responsible was less.

MR. TULLY said so far as the debate had gone it had shown that very little supervision was exercised over the financial business of the House. The Supplementary Estimate was not large in itself, but at the same time the Committee was entitled to know how it had been expended and how much was spent on each house. The expense of an Agency in Cairo should not have been incurred, seeing that Egypt was a British dependency and, as he understood, was administered at a profit to this country. He supported the Amendment.

MAJOR JAMESON disclaimed any desire to detain the House, but felt compelled to say that what he objected to in this Estimate was its unbusinesslike character. He had some knowledge of how a Government contractor did his work; repairs were often made which were absolutely unnecessary, simply for the purpose of increasing the Expense, and whatever might be the position of England, Ireland at all events had not too much money to pay for these estimates. The four items dealt with should have been kept separate and not lumped together in one Estimate, because when it came to a question of voting Supplementary Estimates no one knew where it was going to end. So far as the Irish Members were concerned, they were determined to extract the greatest possible information from the Government in regard to them.

MR. FIELD said the House of Commons took upon itself to criticise the work of some of the county councils in Ireland, but, as a member of a county council, he would inform the Committee that no county council in Ireland could carry on its financial business in the way in which the fiscal business of the Empire was conducted. The fiscal business of the Empire was carried on in the loosest possible manner—the House being expected to vote millions of money on the mere word of a Minister, no financial committee making any examination into the Estimates until they came to be considered by a Committee of the House. Such a practice was not one to recommend itself to a business man. He thought the business of the Empire ought to be carried out on business principles, and therefore he supported the Amendment.

MR. DALY did not know who was responsible for the Estimate, but the

Estimate itself certainly showed that very loose management existed in the Department from which it emanated. It showed a great want of economy. He regretted also that as the amount was so small and we were so near the new financial year this Estimate could not have gone over with the ordinary Estimates, but no doubt the reason for bringing it in in this way was in order that the general Estimates should be made to look less. He was pleased the Amendment had been moved, and was of opinion that if a good fight were made by the Irish Members it would tend to make the Government more careful in the future.

COLONEL NOLAN thought that the Vote ought to be reduced by at least £1,500, as he saw no reason for maintaining any of these Embassies in Catholic countries.

*THE CHAIRMAN: Order, order! The hon. Member is not entitled to go into that question. All that is open to discussion is the amount in the Supplementary Estimates.

COLONEL NOLAN drew attention to the fact that in the original Estimates a sum was allowed for this purpose, and he thought that amount ought never to be exceeded.

MR. FLYNN expressed the opinion that if a county or district council in Ireland prepared their accounts in such a fashion as the Estimates of the Empire were prepared there would soon be a strong complaint from the Local Government Board. Some explanation ought to be given by those responsible for the Estimates such as the Committee had the pleasure to listen to when the Treasury was represented by the present President of the Board of Agriculture. On the Front Opposition Bench there was at one time a party whose cry was Peace, Retrenchment, and Reform, but that party, judging from the state of the bench, had disappeared. It had come to this, that the iconoclastic, revolutionary, and semi-socialistic persons representing in that House the people of Ireland were the only persons who looked at the Estimates with a critical sense of economy.

MR. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.) hoped some explanation would be forthcoming. All that the right hon. Gentleman said was that urgent work was necessary; he gave no details. He submitted that no business man would accept an account which only contained the lump sum in respect of several items, and in this case the House ought to be treated as a customer who, having to pay the money, was entitled to receive a detailed account.

MR. DALZIEL complained that the application by hon. Members for details had not been acceded to, but he thought, at all events, they were entitled to a courteous reply, if it only contained reasons why no details were to be given.

MR. AKERS DOUGLAS said he had already explained that there had recently been many changes in the *personnel* of the diplomatic and consular service, and expense had unavoidably been incurred in redecoration and repairs of official residences on a change of Consul or Ambassador. It was the general thing to do. Hon. Members themselves did it when they took a house after the expiry of a lease.

MR. JORDAN had no objection to putting these houses into repair, that was a thing that everybody did. His objection lay in the fact that no details being before the Committee, the Committee was unable to form an opinion as to whether the work had been economically carried out. In all these cases there was a lack of business detail. If the Committee had been in possession of the details of the £2,000 they might, having found the details correct, have agreed to the Estimate. As matters stood, he should vote against the lump sum.

MR. CALDWELL (Lanarkshire, Mid) said it appeared to him that what was generally complained of was a want of specification in the Estimate. The Committee would notice that in Section B there was a Vote for £500 for anything that might not be foreseen. There were a great many changes in our diplomatic service every year, and the changes of one year balanced the changes of another, and that sum of £500 was put in in order to meet anything extraordinary which might take place. The Estimate ought to have stated what the particular expenses were, and the amount required at each place. The whole complaint against the Government seemed to be a want of specification.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 101; Noes, 175. (Division List No. 22.)

AYES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Allen, C. P. (Glouc., Stroud)
Ambrose, Robert
Boland, John
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Boyle, James
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Burke, E. Haviland-
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Cawley, Frederick
Cogan, Denis J.
Colville John
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Cullinan, J.
Daly, James
Dalziel, James Henry
Delany, William
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, James H.
Edwards, Frank
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Fenwick, Charles
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Gilhooly, James
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Hammond, John
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne, Rt. Hn. Charles Seale-
Helme, Norval Watson
Holland, William Henry
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kinloch, Sir John George Smyth
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leng, Sir John
Levy, Maurice
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
M‘Dermott, Patrick
M‘Fadden, Edward
M‘Govern, T.
M‘Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
M‘Laren, Charles Benjamin
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Mooney, John J.
Morley, Charles (Breconshire)
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipper'ry Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Doherty, William
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
Power, Patrick Joseph
Rea, Russell
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roche, John
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfarsh.)
Soares, Ernest J.
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Huddrsfld
Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Mr. Tully and Mr. J. P. Farrell.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir A. F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arrol, Sir William
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Austin, Sir John
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John Geo. Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (Leeds)
Bartley, George C. T.
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles, T. Gibson (King's Lynn
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Bullard, Sir Harry
Butcher, John George
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.)
Chamberlain, J. A. (Worc'r)
Chamberlayne, T. (S'thampton
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colston, Chas. E. H. Athole
Cook, Frederick Lucas
Corbett, A. C. (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cranborne, Viscount
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dimsdale, Sir Joseph Cockfield
Dorington, Sir John Edward
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir Wm. Theodore
Dunn, Sir William
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. H.
Faber, George Denison
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
Fergusson, Rt. Hn Sir J (Manc'r)
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fitzroy, Hn. Edward Algernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Forster, Henry William
Gladstone, Rt. Hon. Herbert J.
Godson, Sir Aug. Frederick
Gordon, Hn. J E. (Elgin & Nairn)
Gorst, Rt. Hn. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Greene, Sir E. W. (Bury St. Ed.
Greene, H. D. (Shrewsbury)
Grenfell, William Henry
Gretton, John
Groves, James Grimble
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G (Mid'x

Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
Hardy, Laurence (K'nt, Ashf'rd
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanley
Heath, James (Staffords. N. W.)
Henderson, Alexander
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hogg, Lindsay
Hoult, Joseph
Howard, Capt J (Kent, Faversh.
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir John H.
Kenyon, James (Lancs., Bury)
Keswick, William
Knowles, Lees
Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawson, John Grant
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Rt. Hon. W. (Bristol, S.
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth
Macdona, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool
M'Calmont, Col. J. (Antrim, E.
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (Edinb'h, W.)
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire)
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfriessh.
Milner, Rt. Hn. Sir Frederick G.
Milward, Colonel Victor
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropsh.
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford
Murray, Rt Hn A Graham (Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Newdigate, Francis Alex.
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Pilkington, Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Purvis, Robert
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Renshaw, Charles Bine
Rentoul, James Alexander
Renwick, George
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Round, James
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, John
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alex.
Sandys, Lt.-Col. Thos. Myles
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Smith, H. C (North'mb Tynesde
Smith, James Parker (Lanarks)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stewart, Sir Mark J. M'Taggart
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Stroyan, John
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thomson, F. W. (York, W. R.)
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Tufnell, Col. Edward
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Walker, Col. William Hall
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Wason, John C. (Orkney)
Welby, Sir C. G. E. (Notts.)
Whiteley, H. (Ashton-u.-Lyne
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wills, Sir Frederick
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

Original Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 176; Noes, 91. (Division List No. 23.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arrol, Sir William
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Austin, Sir John
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfobr, Rt Hn Gerald W. (Leeds
Bartley, George C. T.
Beach, Rt Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles, T. Gibson (King's Lynn)
Broadhurst, Henry
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Bullard, Sir Harry
Butcher, John George
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r
Chamberlayne, T. (S'thampton
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colston, Chas. E. H. Athole
Cook, Frederick Lucas
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasg'w
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cranborne, Viscount
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dimsdale, Sir J. Cockfield
Dorington, Sir John Edward
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Dyke, Rt Hon. Sir Wm. Hart
Faber, George Denison
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fenwick, Charles
Fergusson, Rt Hn Sir J. (Manc'r
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fitzroy, Hon Edward Algernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Forster, Henry William
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin & Nairn
Gorst, Rt. Hn. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Greene, Sir E. W. (B'y S Edm'ds
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury
Grenfell, William Henry
Gretton, John
Groves, James Grimble
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G (Mid'x.
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashf'd
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanl'y
Heath, James (Staffords. N. W.
Henderson, Alexander
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hogg, Lindsay
Hoult, Joseph
Howard, Capt J (Kent, Faversh.
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
Kenyon, James (Lancs., Bury)
Keswick, William
Knowles, Lees
Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawson, John Grant

Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, RtHnWalter (Bristol,S.
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas,ReginaldJ.(Portsm'uth
Macdona, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
M‘Arthur, Charles (Liverpool
M‘Calmont,Col.J.(Antrim,E.)
M‘Iver, Sir L. (Edinburgh, W.
M‘Killop, Jas. (Stirlingshire)
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Maxwell,W.J.H.(Dumfriessh
Milner, Rt. Hon. Sir Fred. G.
Milward, Colonel Victor
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
More, Robert J. (Shropshire)
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
Murray, Chas. J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham(Bath)
Newdigate,Francis Alexander
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Pilkington, Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Purvis, Robert
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Renshaw, Charles Bine
Rentoul, James Alexander
Renwick, George
Ridley,SamuelF.(BethnalGr'n
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. C. Thomson
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Round, James
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, John
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alex.
Sandys, Lt.-Col. Thos. Myles
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Smith,HC(Northmb.Tyneside
Smith,JamesParker(Lanarks.
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stewart,SirMarkJ.M‘Taggart
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Stroyan, John
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
Thomson, F. W. (York,W.R.)
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, W. Edw. Murray
Tufnell, Col. Edward
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Walker, Col. William Hall
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Wason, Jn. Cathcart (Orkney
Welby,SirCharlesG.E(Notts.)
Whiteley,H.(Ashton-u.-Lyne)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wills, Sir Frederick
Wilson,A.Stanley (York,E.R.
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wodehouse,RtHonE.R.(Bath)
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham,William(Cork,N.E.)
Ambrose, Robert
Boland, John
Boyle, James
Brigg, John
Burke, E. Haviland-
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Cawley, Frederick
Cogan, Denis J.
Colville, John
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Cullinan, J.
Daly, James
Delany, William
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, James H.
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Gilhooly, James
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Hammond, John
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne, Rt.Hon.Charles Seale-
Helme, Norval Watson
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jordon, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kinloch,SirJohnGeorgeSmyth
Leese,SirJosephF.(Accrington
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leng, Sir John
Levy, Maurice
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
M‘Dermott, Patrick
M‘Fadden, Edward
M‘Govern, T.
M‘Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
M‘Laren, Charles Benjamin
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Mooney, John J.
Morley, Charles (Breconshire)
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Col.JohnP.(Galway,N.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien,Kendal(TipperaryMd
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor,James(Wicklow,W.
O'Doherty, William
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly,James(Roscommon,N
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Reddy, M.
Redmond,JohnE.(Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rickett, J. Compton
Roche, John
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Sinclair,Capt.John (Forfarsh.
Soares, Ernest J.
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Patrick (Meath, North
Whiteley, Geo. (York, W.R.)
Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES
—Mr. J. P. Farrell and
Mr. Tully.

4. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a supplementary sum, not exceeding £7,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the expenses of the Post Office and Post Office Telegraph buildings in Great Britain, including furniture, fuel, and sundry miscellaneous services."

MR. J. P. FARRELL thought it would be admitted that the criticism of these Votes had been very useful. The total original Estimate in this instance was £316,000, and without any explanation an additional £7,000 was asked for. It was said to be in consequence of the additional cost of steam coal in the engineering branches. He did not know much about the arrangements for the postal service in London, and perhaps the right hon. Gentleman would explain what was meant by the "engineering branches." Everybody knew that coal had increased in price, but he understood that the Post Office were now paying more for coal at the pit mouth than they were formerly paying to the contractors.

MR. AKERS DOUGLAS: Less, not more.

MR. J. P. FARRELL accepted the correction of the right hon. Gentleman, but he was speaking on the authority of Members who knew something of the subject when he made the statement. There was another reason why the Irish representatives should discuss this Vote. London was one of the largest and richest cities in the world, and served by a very big Department. But the Irish people gained no benefit whatever from the large expenditure involved, and it was not fair that they should be expected to contribute something like £30,000 for the accommodation of the people of London in this matter. It was an extraordinary thing that in each case where the Department came for a Vote it was increasing an original Estimate which it had been thought would be sufficient for the year. If satisfactory explanations were not forthcoming it would be the duty of the Irish Members to take the opinion of the House as to whether these constant increases were justified. There was an utter absence of detail in regard to the expenditure. For all the House knew, there might be a large amount of jobbery concealed in these items. It certainly would not be much trouble to print, in addition to the bald information now supplied, a schedule giving particulars which would explain these matters.

MR. TULLY thought this Vote was another instance of the slovenly manner in which the Estimates were presented. It was not fair to ask for an additional sum of £7,000 on an original Estimate of £15,000 without giving any information. If officials got a free hand in these matters, knowing there would be no inquiry, they would pile up extras at an enormous rate. No confidence could be placed in any estimate coming from the Post Office Department, as Committees sitting upstairs knew how the leading officials of the Department juggled with the finances of the country. As an illustration he might instance the case of the telegraphs—they were to have been bought for £3,000,000, but when the Post Office had done taking the public money £17,000,000 had been paid. The Committee had been told that instead of buying the coal from contractors the Post Office officials were to do a stroke of economy by buying at the pit mouth, and thus avoid the middleman's profits. What was the result as soon as they had this free hand? There was this increased demand for £7,000. That ought to appeal to the Liberal Members to support the Irish representatives more than they had done in criticising these Votes. If these small sums were not looked into with care and discrimination they would soon mount to very large totals.

MR. DALY pointed out that in the footnote to this Estimate it was stated that this £7,000 was due partly for steam coal. What did "partly" mean? With regard to purchasing coal at the pit mouth, was the contract put out to tender, or had the Government given it to some particular firm? As one who knew a little about the coal business, he was surprised to hear that by buying the coal direct from the collieries the right hon. Gentleman obtained extra weight. If he had been so fortunate he had been more lucky than most people. What foundation had the right hon. Gentleman for that statement? Had he personally seen the coal weighed? Another point was, how much per ton had the Government paid for the coal? That there should be a Supplementary Estimate of £7,000 on an original Estimate of only £15,000 seemed to point to great incapacity on the part of the department that made such a wrong calculation, and it was nothing short of an insult to the Committee that they should be asked to pass such Supplementary Estimates without any particulars or explanation whatever.

MR. CALDWELL, in reference to the appeal to the Liberal benches by the hon. Member for South Leitrim, said he had not seen any necessity for the Liberals to interfere in the Votes so far as they had gone. The Local Government Act in Ireland had evidently been most beneficial, one of its fruits being that Irish Members, being now accustomed to local government and to the manner in which accounts should be kept, were able with that experience to come and give a lesson in the matter of accounts to the House of Commons. He never thought that the Government would have put forward the price of coal as a reason for the present Estimate, because there had not been a rise in the price since the Estimates were prepared. The Government evidently thought that they were going to make a good bargain by taking the coal supply into their own hands, and they made a contract for fourteen months supply of coal just before the price went down.

MR. AKERS DOUGLAS said he could only repeat the explanation which he had given on the previous Vote as to the causes of the increase. A very great increase had taken place in the price of the coal. The Estimates were prepared in November and December of the year before the last, and that Estimate had been exceeded. Hon. Members opposite must be aware that the extra cost of coal had been felt very severely not only by individuals, but also by large undertakings. Under the new arrangement which the Government had made they were paying for a fourteen months supply, whereas the original estimate was made only for twelve months. They had been told that as the Government were very large consumers of coal, and consumed in their public departments something like 24,000 tons of steam coal annually, they ought to make arrangements whereby they could supply themselves from the pit's mouth. Such an arrangement was entered into, and it came into effect on the 3rd of July last. They were now getting steam coal direct from the collieries, and it was being paid for monthly, whereas it was paid for quarterly before. They were distributing it themselves, and were actually placing it in the cellars of the public departments. By this means they could guarantee that the coal was of the description which it professed to be, and they could ensure greater punctuality in the delivery. By this new system they got not only a very much better class of coal, but they had a much smaller amount of what were known as "sweepings." On the whole, the experiment they had made in this direction had worked extremely well. They had now got their own wharf in London, and they had a practical man resident there who inspected the coal and saw it weighed before it was delivered to the Government departments. They had now under the present system an assurance that the coal they were receiving was of the quality ordered. They were also getting the advantage of the overweight by dealing directly with the collieries, and they would not get that additional weight if they bought from the middleman or the contractor. With regard to the price, they were paying for steam coal 18s. 3d. per ton at the pit's mouth. They were consuming some 24,000 tons of coal annually, and they were practically saving about 1s. per ton upon the prices which they would have to pay in London.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON (Tower Hamlets, Poplar) agreed that the Department were doing well in dealing directly with the collieries, instead of allowing the middleman to get a profit. That course was certainly putting the matter on a more businesslike footing. The right hon. Gentleman opposite had given the Committee a full explanation, but he agreed with his hon. friend behind him that some such explanation ought to have been put on the Estimate itself. If the terms of this new arrangement had been set forth on the Estimate this discussion would have been unnecessary, and the right hon. Gentleman would have been saved a good deal of trouble. One point he wished for an explanation upon was how the right hon. Gentleman made out that he had effected a real saving by taking this contract for fourteen months instead of twelve months, in view of the high price of coal ?

MR. AKERS DOUGLAS : We did not make such a contract. What I said was that by the present system we are paying ready money, whereas formerly we paid only quarterly. It is only for this particular year that we are paying for this extra two months supply. By this system of paying ready money instead of paying quarterly we have got two more months supply in the year.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said that when the new contract was arranged last July the price of coal was about the highest, and it had come down in price since that time.

MR. AKERS DOUGLAS : But we did not enter into a contract for a year at all. We simply made this new arrangement, and the extra two months, as I have already explained, is entirely owing to the different method of payment. We are now paying for our coal in advance, and consequently we have to put two more months in the Estimate. We did not enter into a year's contract last July.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON accepted this explanation, and said there was one other point upon which he should like an explanation. He wished to know whether a considerable number of respectable producers were asked to contract for the supply, and was the lowest tender accepted.

MR. AKERS DOUGLAS : Yes, a considerable number of producers were asked to tender, and the lowest tender was accepted.

MR. DALY said that the right hon. Gentleman's explanation was not satisfactory. He moved a reduction of the Vote by £1,000.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £6,000, be granted for the said Service."—(*Mr. Daly.*)

MR. NANNETTI (Dublin, College Green) said he desired to enter his protest against this increase in the expenditure, because it showed very bad management on the part of the parties responsible. He happened to be connected with a corporation which had to buy coal, and when the difficulty complained of by the right hon. Gentleman occurred they made their arrangements for purchasing coal accordingly. The parties responsible for this contract had very much mistaken their position, and they had made a mistake in giving out a contract which was far in excess of the requirements of the case. He was very much surprised indeed that hon. Gentlemen opposite were satisfied with this state of things, and were leaving all the criticism to Members on the Opposition side of the House.

MR. O'MARA (Kilkenny, S.) said the right hon. Gentleman opposite had pointed out that the Government had been purchasing coal in a cheaper way, and under those circumstances he could not understand why there had been an increase of £4,000 in twelve months. Last winter was not very cold, and how was it that in public offices some attempt was not made to economise in the quantity of coal used and so reduce the expenditure of the country ? To his mind 18s. 3d. per ton was a very excessive price to pay for steam coal.

MR. FLAVIN regarded the right hon. Gentleman's statement as very unsatisfactory, and he wished to know why a fourteen months contract was entered into last July.

MR. AKERS DOUGLAS : I did not state that such a contract was entered into last July. What I said was that the new arrangement came into force in that month. We certainly did not make such a contract in July.

MR. FLAVIN said he understood that the new system came into operation in July. He wished to know when the Government commenced paying the price which had been quoted, and had that price been continued up to the present moment. The right hon. Gentleman had not explained that point. If the information he had received was correct, steam coal was now worth between 3s. to 5s. a ton less than it was in July, when this arrangement was entered into. Taking the 24,000 tons consumed during the fourteen months at 18s. 3d. per ton, according to the present price of steam coal they were paying an overcharge of 5s. per ton. [Ministerial laughter.] He thought he was perfectly entitled to say that, because the First Commissioner of Works had given them no explanation of it. Hon. Gentlemen opposite sat there and absolutely refused to ask a single question upon this subject. This was not the first occasion upon which Irish Members had considered it their duty to examine the details of a Supplementary Estimate, and they were quite prepared to accept the laughter of hon. Gentlemen opposite. The fact remained that they laughed and did nothing else. What they wanted to know was when the contract was entered into, and whether the price of 18s. 3d. per ton was given last July, August, or September.

MR. CREAN (Cork, S.E.) said that what struck him in connection with this Vote was not so much the amount of money in excess of the original estimate, but the system of contracting. If the humblest county or parish council in Ireland were to prepare its estimates in this fashion, and then add 50 per cent. to them, the Local Government Board would come down on it, surcharge the amount, and make the members pay the excess. If that system were introduced in the Government departments they would have none of these Supplementary Estimates. At present the work was evidently done in a very slipshod way. He was perfectly well aware that so long as the Government had such a big majority behind them, their supporters would swallow anything, even if it were as big as a whale, or so long as it was for the consumption of Government money. He supposed the same thing would happen if the Liberals were in power, and he maintained that it was the Irish Nationalists who could alone, with clean hands, criticise the Government departments in their dealings with the country. If the war contracts were conducted on the same principle as the right hon. Gentleman had conducted the contracts for his office, no wonder they were spending hundreds of millions in South Africa. The Irish people had to pay the piper more in proportion to their means than the English, and they could not afford to allow this extravagant expenditure over estimates to go on. [Laughter.] Hon. Gentlemen opposite might laugh, but they would laugh with the wrong side of their mouth if they did that sort of thing in Ireland. Hon. Gentlemen opposite were very good when they went to their constituents and said they would carefully look into these things; but the moment they were elected they did not care how the taxpayer's money was spent. They in Ireland did care, and hence their protest against this extravagance. He did not want to waste the time of the Committee, but if more time was spent in discussing the Estimates there would be less waste of public money.

*MR. MANSFIELD (Lincolnshire, Spalding) said he did not question the principle of these contracts, but the true secret was to choose the right time for entering into them. The right hon. Gentleman had explained that the contract was for fourteen months and not for twelve months, but he had given no idea when it was entered into. If that had been done in July it was what no business firm would have done.

MR. AKERS DOUGLAS said he would point out again that although the contract, for a certain fixed amount of coal, dated from the 1st of July, it did not necessarily follow that they made it on that date. There was no desire whatever on the part of the Department to keep back anything from the House, but to give the actual facts as to the date of the contract.

*MR. MANSFIELD thought that under the circumstances it would be better to postpone the Vote. What he was seeking to know was, whether the contract was entered into on the 1st of July at July prices, or whether it was entered into prior to July at lower prices. At what price per ton did the contract allow the coal proprietor? He would like to be clear as to whether the Government had given a price at high-water mark, and so secured for the contractors a rate which in a year's time the contractors could not have hoped to have obtained. He noticed that the fuel for the Post Office had risen 50 per cent., while that for the Science and Art Department had only increased 6 per cent., and for Public Buildings Department 8 per cent. Would the right hon. Gentleman tell the Committee the reason for this enormous difference? Was there one contract, or different contracts entered into at separate times? It would not be amiss if someone went down from the Public Buildings Department, or, better still, from the Science and Art Department to the Post Office, and made some inquiries as to the cause of these enormous differences. It would be a pity if they were asked to vote for this huge increase, and to be kept absolutely in the dark as to the reason for it.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE said that if the right hon. Gentleman could not give the information, he supposed it was not owing to his fault, but to that of the person who drew up the statement. He thought the right hon. Gentleman should postpone the Vote to enable him to obtain full and accurate information.

MR. CALDWELL said he too would appeal that the Vote should be postponed. The right hon. Gentleman had, after he had drawn attention to it, himself to admit that the Vote was not correct in this respect, that whilst they had put £7,000 under item M, item R ought to have been included, which would have brought the sum up to £20,000. That one point showed that the Government came before the Committee with defective Estimates. But more than that, if the right hon. Gentleman would refer to the explanation given in the foot-note, he would find that it had nothing to do with the explanation now given from the Front Bench. The explanation in the foot-note was—"Additional cost of fuel, partly steam coal, required for the engineering branches." But the explanation given from the Front Bench was that the increase was due to the contract being for fourteen months instead of twelve. But the difference would only amount to £4,000 for the two months, supposing the whole quantity of coal had been taken, and that left £3,000 or £4,000 entirely unexplained. The increase in the price of coal had nothing whatever to do with the increase of expenditure, because, if they took this same Vote under item J, for coal fuel for the port of London and the outports in England, Wales, and Scotland, amounting to £9,000, no increase was asked for. How did they make out that in a particular Department in London there was an enormous increase in the price of coal, while there was no increase whatever in the price throughout England, Wales, and Scotland? There must be some explanation, but obviously that given both on the Estimates and from the Front Bench was insufficient and incomplete. For their own credit he beseeched the Government to withdraw this Vote—the Estimates would not all be pushed through that night—and bring it forward on Monday with full information, and then the Committee would be able to deal with it in a spirit which would be intelligent at least. His experience of the House was that when they got into a dead-lock, as at present, the Government would not get on with their other Estimates if they insisted on going on with the disputed one without explanation.

MR. JORDAN said his excuse for the right hon. Gentleman was that he was new to his office, and had not been able to give the attention desirable to his permanent officials, who desired, of course, to "boss" the whole thing. These permanent officials had evidently furnished the right hon. Gentleman with Estimates without any details, and they had thought that hon. Members were fools enough to pass them without discussion. But the Committee had been indued with a spirit of investigation, and intended to exercise it. He appealed to the right hon. the First Commissioner of Works to postpone the Vote, at any rate until Monday; and between now and then he could see his permanent officials and consult with them as to how a detailed Estimate could be brought in. The right hon. the First Commissioner could come on Monday fresh and primed for his work, as they also would be.

MR. O'MARA said he had just been doing a little sum on paper, and found that there had been an increase of 26 per cent. on the original Estimate. If the First Commissioner had been chairman of a railway company, and had come before his shareholders and told them that there had been an increase of 26 per cent. in the cost of running the locomotive department, the shareholders would have immediately appointed a committee of investigation to inquire where the money had gone. An hon. Member had drawn attention to the fact that this increase was only for London. The figures were very interesting. Over the whole country £316,000 was spent for fuel, and in London £22,000. That was only 7 per cent. of the total amount spent in the whole of England. Now, it was a very curious thing that there should have been an increase of 50 per cent. in the cost of coal in London, and no increase at all in the money spent in all the provincial towns. He could not understand how the price of coal had risen 50 per cent. in London, and had remained the same in every town in the country. He joined in the appeal made to the right hon. Gentleman to withdraw this Vote until he had a full explanation to offer to the Committee. [Laughter.] Although there was a good deal of laughter on the Government benches, the country would not be satisfied with the explanation given by the First Commissioner.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.) said it was an extraordinary thing that no British representative, except a few on the Opposition side of the House, had offered any opposition whatever to these accounts. Was it to go out to the public that supporters of His Majesty's Government were prepared to sit perfectly silent when they found such a large increase in the Votes without one of them asking the Minister responsible why the increase had come about? Outside the House he had heard representatives of the British public saying that they opposed Home Rule because they were always glad in Committee of Supply to have the Irish Members standing up and objecting to extravagance on the part of the Government, which the supporters of the Government were either unwilling or afraid to put out. The hon. Member who spoke from Scotland had appealed to the First Commissioner of Works to postpone this Vote, and he would repeat that appeal. He would ask whether any Gentleman representing the Government on the Front Bench could point to a single precedent where a responsible Minister in Committee of Supply had got up and frankly admitted that he had not got the particulars asked for, and at the same time refused to postpone the Vote in question until he had obtained the particulars which would enable him to answer inquiries made? If they were not to receive detailed explanation from the Minister in charge of these Votes, and if inquiries addressed to him in a reasonable way were not to be listened to, the sooner a fresh arrangement was made the better, whereby Ministers could allocate the public money in any way they pleased without coming to the House and asking for it. He had heard it said that the reason for this large increase of £7,000 in one year was due to the increased price of coal. That might be the reason for all he knew, but it ought to be the duty of the responsible Minister to take steps to guard the public against such an exorbitant increase, in the price of a necessary of life like coal, which came from time to time on the public. They had heard that fuel ought to be laid in stock by municipalities, so that the public could have a supply at a reasonable rate. Whether that were so or not, he submitted that the Government ought to take steps to lay in a sufficient supply of fuel, in order to protect the taxpayers, when they had reason to believe that the price was to be raised to an exorbitant rate. If this extraordinary increase was the result of the increased price of coal, then that increased price had been purely fictitious, and had enormously and extravagantly enriched the coal merchants, and to a great extent the coal-owners, from which the public ought to have been protected. For the Government to come down and, without a word of explanation, calmly to ask the representatives of the taxpayers to pay £22,700, instead of £15,700, owing to an increase in the price of coal, was an extravagant and outrageous thing. He quite agreed with what fell from the hon. Member for North Wexford, that the lack of details and the absence of explanations asked for might not be in any single way the fault of the First Commissioner of Works. So far as he had had experience of the right hon. Gentleman in the office he held, they had always found him quite ready to give any explanation in his power; but on this occasion he told them frankly that he had not got at his disposal the facts that would throw some light on this extravagant increase. He certainly thought that some hon. Gentlemen supporting His Majesty's Government should lend assistance to the appeal they were making to the right hon. Gentleman; because, after all, the constituents of hon. Gentlemen opposite were as much interested in this matter as Irish constituents. He believed there was not one of them who, at a meeting of his constituents, would be able to deny that, in the demand they were now making, the Irish Members were doing a service to the taxpayers of the United Kingdom. It seemed to him that if the right hon. Gentleman the First Commissioner of Works desired, as they did, to facilitate the business of the House—— [Laughter.] It appeared to be perfectly impossible to convince hon. Gentlemen opposite that they on the Irish benches were just as anxious as those hon. Gentlemen were to get through Supply as soon as possible; and if they did not understand that, then they characteristically and pre-eminently misrepresented the feeling of the Irish people. If the object of the First Commissioner of Works was to get through Supply in reasonable time, he would be well advised if he conceded the demand made to postpone the Vote until he had furnished himself with the information desired.

Mr. AKERS DOUGLAS rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 222; Noes, 135. (Division List No. 24.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood,Capt.SirAlex.F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arrol, Sir William
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Austin, Sir John
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John Geo. Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour,Rt.Hn.A.J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G.W. (Leeds)
Banbury, Frederick George
Bartley, George C. T.
Beach,Rt.Hn.SirM.H.(Bristol
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Bousfield, William Robert
Brassey, Albert
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Bullard, Sir Harry
Butcher, John George
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V.C.W. (Derbysh.)
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain,Rt.Hon J.(Birm.
Chamberlain,J.Austen(Worc.
Charrington, Spencer
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H.A.E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colston, Chas. Edw. H.Athole
Cook, Frederick Lucas
Corbett,A. Cameron(Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Craig, Robert Hunter
Cranborne, Viscount
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dimsdale, SirJosephCockfield
Dorington, Sir John Edward
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir William T.
Duke, Edward Henry
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Dyke,Rt.HonSirWilliamHart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Faber, George Denison
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes,Hon.AilwynEdward
Fergusson,Rt.Hn.SirJ(Manc'r
Fielden, EdwardBrocklehurst
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
FitzGerald,SirRobertPenrose-

Fitzroy,Hon.EdwardAlgernon
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster,SirMichael(LondUniv.
Garfit, William
Godson, Sir Augustus F.
Gordon,Hn.J.E.(Elgin&Nairn
Gore, Hon. F. S. Ormsby-
Gorst,Rt. Hon. Sir JohnEldon
Goschen, Hon.GeorgeJoachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Green.WalfordD(Wednesbury
Greene,SirEW(B'rySEdm'nds
Grenfell, William Henry
Gretton, John
Groves, James Grimble
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton,RtHnLordG.(Mid'x
Hamilton,Marq.of (L'nd'derry
Hardy,Laurance(K'nt,Ashford
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, A. Howard (Hanley)
Heath, James(Stafford,N.W.)
Helder, Augustus
Henderson, Alexander
Hermon-Hodge,Robt.Trotter
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hobhouse,Henry(Somerset,E.
Hogg, Lindsay
Hoult, Joseph
Howard,CaptJ(Kent,Faversh.
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Kennaway,Rt. Hn. SirJohnH.
Kenyon, Jamas (Lancs., Bury)
Kenyon-Slaney,Col.W (Salop)
Keswick, William
Knowles, Lees
Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawrence, William F.
Lawson, John Grant
Lee,CaptA.H.(Hants,Fareh'm
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leighton, Stanley
Long,Rt Hn.Walter(Bristol,S)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas,Col. Francis(Lowestoft)
Lucas,ReginaldJ(Portsmouth)
Macartney, Rt. Hn. W. G. E.
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Calmont,Col.J.(Antrim,E.)
M'Iver, Sir L.(Edinburgh,W.)
M'Killop, Jas. (Stirlingshire)
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell.WJH(Dumfriesshire
Milner,Rt.Hn.SirFrederickG.
Milton, Viscount
Milward, Colonel Victor
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
More, R. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow)
Morgan, Hn. F.(Monmouthsh.
Morrell, George Herbert
Morris, Hn. Martin Henry F.
Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham(Bath)
Newdigate, FrancisAlexander
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Pilkington, Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Purvis, Robert
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Renshaw, Charles Bine
Rentoul, James Alexander
Renwick, George
Ridley,S.Forde(BethnalGreen
Ritchie,Rt.Hn.Chas.Thomson
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Round, James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, John
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col.SamuelAlexander
Samuel, Harry S.(Limehouse)
Sandys, Lt.-Col. Thos. Myles
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Smith,Abel H.(Hertford,East)
Smith,H.C.(NorthumbTynesd
Smith, Hon. W. F. D.(Strand)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir Jn. M.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Stroyan, John
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson,Wm.Edw.Murray
Tufnell, Col. Edward
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Walker, Col. William Hall
Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E.
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Wason, John C. (Orkney)
Welby,Lt.-ColACE(Taunton)
Welby,SirCharlesG.E.(Notts.
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wills, Sir Frederick
Wilson,A.Stanley(York,E.R.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd,Wm.H.(Yorks.)
Wodehouse,Rt Hn E.R.(Bath)
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, George
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham,William(Cork,N.E.)
Allen, C. P. (Glouc., Stroud)
Ambrose, Robert
Barlow, John Emmott
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Boland, John
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Boyle, James
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Carew, James Laurence
Carvill, Patrick G. Hamilton
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cogan, Denis J.
Colville, John
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Crombie, John William
Cullinan, J.
Daly, James
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Delany, William
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Chas. M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, James H.
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank
Elibank, Master of
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fuller, J. M. F.
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gilhooly, James
Gladstone,RtHn.HerbertJohn
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Hammond, John
Hardie,J.Keir(MerthyrTydvil
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Helme, Norval Watson
Holland, William Henry
Hope, John Deans (Fife,West)
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)

Jacoby, James Alfred
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jones,DavidBrynmor,Swansea
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kinloch,SirJohnGeorgeSmyth
Labouchere, Henry
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese,SirJosephF(Accrington)
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Levy, Maurice
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
M'Crae, George
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Fadden, Edward
M'Govern, T.
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Mooney, John J.
Morley, Charles (Breconshire)
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan,Col.JohnP.(Galway,N.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien,Kendal(Tipper'ryMid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor,James(Wicklow,W.
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, William
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly,James(Roscommon,N
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Rea, Russell
Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Robson, William Snowdon
Roche, John
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick, B.)
Shipman, Dr John
Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfarsh.
Soares, Ernest J.
Stevenson, Francis S.
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
Thomson, F. W. (York, W.R.
Tomkinson, James
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Tully, Jasper
Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.
Wason,Eugene (Clackmannan
White, George (Norfolk)
White,Patrick (Meath, North
Whiteley, George (York,W.R.
Whiteley, J. H. (Halifax)
Williams,Osmond(Merioneth)
Woodhouse,SirJ.T(Hudd'rsf'd
Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)
TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Sir Thomas Esmonde and
Captain Donelan.

Question put accordingly, "That a sum, not exceeding £6,000, be granted for the said Service."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 132; Noes, 222. (Division List No. 25.)

AYES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Allen, Chas.P.(Glouc.,Stroud)
Ambrose, Robert
Asquith, RtHn.HerbertHenry
Barlow, John Emmott
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Boland, John
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Boyle, James
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sidney Charles
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Carew, James Laurence
Carvill,Patrick Geo.Hamilton
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cogan, Denis J.
Colville, John
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter
Crean, Eugene
Crombie, John William
Cullinan, J.
Daly, James
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Delany, William
Dewar, JohnA.(Inverness-sh.)
Dillon, John
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Chas. M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, James H.
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fuller, J. M. F.
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gilhooly, James
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Hammond, John
Hardie,J.Keir(MerthyrTydvil
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne,Rt.Hon.Charles Seale-
Helme, Norval Watson
Holland, William Henry
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jones, D. Brynmor (Swansea)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kinloch, Sir John Geo. Smyth
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese,SirJosephF.(Accrington
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Levy, Maurice
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
M'Crae, George
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Fadden, Edward
M'Govern, T.
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Mooney, John J.
Morley, Charles (Breconshire)
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan,Col.JohnP.(Galway,N.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, Kendal(Tipper'y,Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor,James(Wicklow,W)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, William
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, J. (Roscommon, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Rea, Russell
Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Redmond, J. E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Robson, William Snowdon

Roche, John
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scott, Charles P. (Leigh)
Shipman, Dr. John
Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire)
Soares, Ernest J.
Stevenson, Francis S.
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
Thomson, F. W. (York, W. R.)
Tomkinson, James
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Tully, Jasper
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, E. (Clackmannan)
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whiteley, G. (York, W. R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Woodhouse, Sir J T (Huddersf'd
Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Thomas Esmonde and Captain Donelan.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, Augustus Hy. Eden
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arrol, Sir William
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Austin, Sir John
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John Geo. Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)
Banbury, Frederick George
Bartley, George C. T.
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Bousfield, William Robert
Brassey, Albert
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Bullard, Sir Harry
Butcher, John George
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc.
Charrington, Spencer
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Cook, Frederick Lucas
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cranborne, Viscount
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davies, M. Vaughan- (Cardigan
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dimsdale, Sir Jos. Cockfield
Dorington, Sir John Edward
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir Wm. Hart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Elibank, Master of
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, George Denison
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J (Manc'r
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
FitzGerald, Sir R. Penrose-
Fitzroy, Hon. Edward A.
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Sir M. (London Univ.)
Garfit, William
Godson, Sir Augustus Fred.
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin & Nairn
Gore, Hon. F. S. Ormsby-
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Green, Walford D (Wednesbury
Greene, Sir E. W. (Bury St. Ed.
Grenfell, William Henry
Gretton, John
Groves, James Grimble
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G. (Mid'x
Hamilton, Marq. of (L'donderry
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashf'rd
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanley
Heath, James (Staffords., N. W.
Helder, Augustus
Henderson, Alexander
Hermon-Hodge, Robert Trotter
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hobhouse, Henry (Somerset, E.
Hogg, Lindsay
Hoult, Joseph
Howard, Cap. J (Kent, Faversh.
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
Kenyon, James (Lancs., Bury)
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop
Keswick, William
Knowles, Lees
Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawrence, William F.
Lawson, John Grant
Lee, Capt. A H (Hants. Fareham
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leighton, Stanley
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsm'th)
Macartney, Rt. Hn. W G Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Calmont, Col. J. (Antrim, E.)
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (Edinburgh W
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire)
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfriessh.
Milner, Rt. Hn. Sir Frederick G.
Milton, Viscount
Milward, Colonel Victor
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morgan, David J (Walthamst'w
Morgan, Hn Fred. (Monm'thsh.
Morrell, George Herbert
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford
Murray, Rt Hn A Graham (Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Pilkington, Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Purvis, Robert
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Renshaw, Charles Bine
Rentoul, James Alexander
Renwick, George
Ridley, S. F. (Bethnal Green)
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Charles T.

Ropner, Colonel Robert
Round, James
Royds, Clement-Molyneux
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, John
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col. S. Alexander
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Sandys, Lieut.-Col. Thos. Myles
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, E.)
Smith, H C (North'mb. Tyneside
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir J. M.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Stroyan, John
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Ox'd Univ.
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Tufnell, Col. Edward
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Walker, Col. William Hall
Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E.
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Welby, Lt.-Col. A C E (Taunton
Welby, Sir Charles G. E. (Notts.
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wills, Sir Frederick
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

MR. AKERS DOUGLAS claimed, "That the Original Question be now put."

Original Question put accordingly.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 229; Noes, 126. (Division List No. 26.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, Augustus Hy. Eden
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arrol, Sir William
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Austin, Sir John
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Col. James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W (Leeds
Banbury, Frederick George
Bartley, George C. T.
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Bousfield, William Robert
Brassey, Albert
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Bullard, Sir Harry
Butcher, John George
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.
Chamberlain, J Austen (Worc'r
Charrington, Spencer
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Cook, Frederick Lucas
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cranborne, Viscount
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dimsdale, Sir Joseph Cockfield
Dorington, Sir John Edward
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Dyke, Rt. Hon Sir William Hart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Elibank, Master of
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, George Denison
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J (Manc'r
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
Fitzroy, Hon. Edward Algernon
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Sir Michael (Lond. Univ
Garfit, William
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, Hn. J. E (Elgin & Nairn
Gore, Hon. F. S. Ormsby-
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Green, Walford D (Wednesb'ry
Greene, Sir E W (B'ry S Edm'nds
Grenfell, William Henry
Gretton, John
Groves, James Grimble
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Rt. Hn Lord G (Mid'x
Hamilton, Marq of (L'nd'nderry
Hardy, L. (Kent, Ashford)
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Arthur H. (Hanley)
Heath, J. (Staffords., N.W
Helder, Augustus
Henderson, Alexander
Hermon-Hodge, Robt. Trotter
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hobhouse, Hy. (Somerset, E.)
Hogg, Lindsay
Hoult, Joseph
Howard, Capt J (Kent, Faversh.
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir J. H.
Kenyon, James (Lancs., Bury)
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop.
Keswick, William
Knowles, Lees
Lawrence, William F.
Lawson, John Grant
Lee, Capt. A H (Hants, Fareham
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leighton, Stanley
Long, Rt. Hn. W. (Bristol, S.)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas, R. J. (Portsmouth)
Macartney, Rt. Hn. W G Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool, W.)
Maconochie, A. W.

M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Calmont, Col. J. (Antrim, E.)
M'Iver, Sir L. (Edinburgh, W.
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire)
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell, W J H (Dumfriesshire
Milner, Rt Hon. Sir Fred. G.
Milton, Viscount
Milward, Colonel Victor
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow)
Morgan, Hn. Fred. (Monm'thsh
Morrell, George Herbert
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray, Rt Hn A Graham (Bute
Murray, Charles I. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Pilkington, Richard
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Purvis, Robert
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Reckitt, Harold James
Reid, James (Greenock)
Renshaw, Charles Bine
Rentoul, James Alexander
Renwick, George
Ridley, S. Forde (Bethnal Green
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas Thomson
Ropner, Colonel Roberts
Round, James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, John
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Sandys, Lieut.-Col Thos. Myles
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, H C. (North'm. Tyneside
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Stroyan, John
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J G (Oxf'd Univ.
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Wm. E. Murray
Tufnell, Col. Edward
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Walker, Col. William Hall
Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Welby, Lt.-Cl. A. C. E. (Taunt'n
Welby, Sir Charles G. E. (Notts.
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wills, Sir Frederick
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd, W. H. (Yorks.
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N. E.
Allen, Chas. P. (Glouc., Stroud
Ambrose, Robert
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Barlow, John Emmot
Boland, John
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Carew, James Laurence
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cogan, Denis J.
Colville, John
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter
Crean, Eugene
Crombie, John William
Cullinan, J.
Daly, James
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Delany, William
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dillon, John
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, James H.
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gilhooly, James
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Hammond, John
Hardie, J. K. (Merthyr Tydvil
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne, Ht. Hon. Chas. Seale-
Helme, Norval Watson
Hope, John Deans (Fife, W.)
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jones, David Brynmor (Sw'ns'a
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kinloch, Sir Jn. George Smyth
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Joseph E. (Accrington
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Levy, Maurice
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
M'Crae, George
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Govern, T.
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Mooney, John J.
Morley, Charles (Breconshire)
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Col. Jn. P. (Galway, N.)
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipper'ry Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, Jas. (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, William
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Rea, Russell
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roche, John
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Shipman, Dr. John
Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Stevenson, Francis S.
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore Cooke

Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
Thomson, F. W. (York, W.R.)
Tomkinson, James
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Tully, Jasper
Wason, E. (Clackmannan)
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whiteley, G. (York, W. R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Williams, Osmond (Marioneth)
Woodhouse, Sir J T (Huddersf'd
Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Sir Thomas Esmonde and
Captain Donelan.

Resolutions to be reported.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £35,200, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, in respect of sundry Public Buildings in Great Britain, not provided for on other Votes."

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: I wish to ask for information with regard to this Vote. In the Votes we have been discussing this evening, our chief difficulty has been that we have not had that information which would be thought requisite in submitting an original Estimate. My contention is that these items ought not to appear as Supplementary Estimates at all. They ought to have been anticipated at the time the Estimates were framed, and it is not right or fair to the House of Commons, which has to vote the money of this country, that these enormous Supplementary Estimates should be introduced in this fashion, We have before us to-day I believe the largest Supplement..ry Estimates that have ever been presented to the House of Commons. A few years ago it was the exception to introduce Supplementary Estimates except under special circumstances. Year by year, however, an increasing number of Supplementary Estimates are being presented to the House of Commons, and it is on that point that I wish to ask the right hon. Gentleman a few questions. In the discussion on the last two Votes, the right hon. Gentleman said he was not personally responsible; that one Vote had reference to the Foreign Office, and the other to the Post Office. No doubt to a certain extent the right hon Gentleman was in the hands of these offices, but he is directly responsible for the Estimate which I now desire to criticise. The first item is Census Buildings, £2,100. The right hon. Gentleman, when we were discussing the Foreign Office Vote, said that the reason for the Supplementary Estimate was that it could not be anticipated, inasmuch as some of the ambassadors had been moved from one place to another, and the houses had to be altered for the new occupants. That to a certain extent is reasonable, but surely the right hon. Gentleman must have known that the Census comes every ten years, and that a building for the taking of it would be required this year. We know that during the last year or two the Government have never anticipated anything, and that the expected was the one thing they were never prepared for. Here was an Estimate which could have been anticipated with the greatest ease, and there is no possible excuse for presenting the House of Commons with a Supplementary Estimate regarding it. The next item is the fitting up of Hertford House, Manchester Square. That is a matter that has been going on for some years, and which might have been fully anticipated if the right hon. Gentleman had only chosen to anticipate it. Further on, there is an item for the Royal Mint, and also for the introduction and extension of electric lighting in the principal public buildings. I ask the right hon. Gentleman how it is that all these items were not anticipated? Not only might they have been anticipated, but it was his bounden duty to anticipate them. This is a matter in which this House is very much concerned, because if Estimates are so under-estimated, as they would seem to have been from these huge Supplementary Votes, the annual statement which the Chancellor of the Exchequer has to make is really totally misleading to the country. The only conclusion that I can draw is that the finance of last year was so bad, and the Government thinking the war was coming to an end, all these different Departments were instructed to keep back every possible Estimate and have it introduced subsequently as a Supplementary Estimate. Even to this Government, a million is a considerable item, and therefore I think we are entitled to ask the right hon. Gentleman, how it is that such items as Census buildings, Hertford House, the Royal Mint, and the introduction of electric lighting were not anticipated in the Estimates that were originally framed? I hope he will be able to give us a satisfactory explanation, but if he does not, I shall certainly vote against the Estimate.

MR. BROADHURST (Leicester) said there was one item of a very interesting nature in the Vote, and that was the alteration of Winchester House, to be adapted to the Intelligence Department of the Government. If the Government would increase that item to some extent, he was sure it would be readily passed. A larger devotion of Government resources to the Intelligence Department would have obviated many of the blunders committed by the Government during the last few years. He especially desired to request information in respect to the moiety of the further portion of the cost of site and erection of buildings for the King's Bench and Probate Registries of the High Court of Justice, of which the total estimate was £19,800. What part of that was the cost of the site, and what part was the cost of the building? There was another item, Patent Office extension, acquisition of site and erection of buildings £3,000. It would, he thought, much facilitate the passing of these Votes if more detailed information regarding them was given. The amount given for the site and the amount to be expended on the building should be given separately, and he thought that the House of Commons was also entitled to know what class of building it was proposed to erect, what was the material to be used, and what provision had been made to see that the material agreed upon was really used by the contractor, and that the work was carried out in accordance with the specification. He asked for information on these points,

MR. FLYNN said he was surprised at the innocence of the hon. Gentlemen above the gangway, who, however, he was glad to see were waking up to a sense of their duty as the representatives of the taxpayers. The hon. Member for Poplar spoke of the absent-mindedness of the Government. Surely it was not a matter of surprise that the Government had only now awakened to the fact that there was a census every ten years. It was only yesterday that they discovered that the 1st of April this year fell on a Sunday. There was one very remarkable sum in the Vote, and that was in connection with the Wallace Exhibition. He believed that no one would grudge money for housing such a priceless collection of ancient and modern art, but surely the buildings ought to have been provided before the collection was arranged. The gallery was opened last May, and how it was that nearly twelve months afterwards there should be a Supplementary Estimate passed his comprehension altogether. He was delighted that hon. Gentlemen above the gangway were waking up to their duty. The Government had hoped to slip all these Estimates through without protest or examination, and would have succeeded were it not for the more or less accidental presence of a large number of Irish Members. There was also an item in the Vote of nearly £10,000 for the

London University. The Irish Members would certainly inquire as to how that money was to be spent. They could not get £1,000 for the Queen's College in Belfast or Cork, while £10,000 was to be given to the London University. He did not know what genius was responsible for the Imperial Institute, but everyone knew it was a dismal failure, and now, at very short notice, it was to be dedicated to the purposes of the London University. The Irish Members strongly objected to that, first of all on the general principle, and secondly because money was being spent with a lavish hand in this country, while £10 would not be given for obviously necessary purposes in Ireland. These Supplementary Estimates called for the strongest protests from hon. Members representing the taxpayers. They were now on the threshold of a new financial year, and these huge sums were asked for instead of the Estimates being submitted to the House in a businesslike manner.

MR. LOUGH said there was one point about the Estimates which he thought was possibly a mistake, but which certainly deserved the attention of the right hon. Gentleman. Only one item —item A—was explained, and no explanation whatever regarding the others was given. Item B was for maintenance and repairs—£2,000. Maintenance and repairs of what? The object to which this sum was to be devoted should be stated. The Committee ought not to be called upon to pass Supplementary Estimates which could have been fairly included in the Estimates for the year. Surely the Government knew what their rent, tithe rent-charge, and insurance would be. There was another point on which he believed the Committee would desire an explanation. A sound canon which ought to be observed in connection with Supplementary Estimates was that nothing should be included in a Supplementary Estimate which could stand over. He did not believe in such financial juggling. The new buildings mentioned in the Supplementary Estimates could have remained over until they could be included in the finances of the next year. Then there was a serious item with reference to the extension of the Royal Mint, which he understood had nothing to do with the new Sovereign. Why could that building not remain over until next month? He asked the right hon. Gentleman to explain why none of the items except item A were explained, and, secondly, why the proposed new buildings could not have stood over.

MR. DILLON said that there was one item to which he desired to direct attention, and that was the sum of £2,950 for additional accommodation for the War Office. It was only two years since they were called upon to vote a sum of two millions to erect a gorgeous new palace for the War Office. He himself and other hon. Members resisted that Vote for a considerable period on the ground that the country ought not to be called upon to spend an enormous sum of money for the erection of a new War Office until they had a Department fit to put into it. What had the War Office done during the last two years to entitle it to demand an additional sum of money? In his opinion, the performances of the War Office had been of such a character that the Committee ought to be very slow to grant any money to it until it was reformed. When he voiced these sentiments he was not speaking the opinion of the Irish and Radical Members, but the opinion of that large section of the public represented by the *Daily Mail* and *The Times* newspapers, who denounced the War Office as the source of all the misfortunes of this country in the field. Why could not the War Office get along in the buildings that had been in existence for the last twenty years? It was monstrous to bring forward as an urgent matter suitable for a Supplementary Estimate expenditure on a temporary building for the War Office, when they were spending £2,000,000 in erecting a new palace in Whitehall for the accommodation of that incapable Department. He accepted the evidence of *The Times*—which he read every morning with great interest—and had come to a conclusion, with *The Times*, that there never was a more incapable Department in any country than the War Office. Let the War Office conduct its ill-omened operations in the buildings in which it had worked for the last twenty years. He considered it a scandalous waste of public money to spend the sum mentioned in the Estimates for the temporary accommodation of these gentlemen. Every page of the Supplementary Estimates bore evidence of the fact that all the Departments had adopted the policy which was preached the other day by the First Lord of the Treasury—namely, that it was not the business of the House of Commons to examine Estimates at all, and that Departments requiring money could claim it without instructing the Member of the House who represented them as to how it was to be spent. In old days when a Minister had to introduce a Supplementary Estimate he did so with an apology, but no apology was made nowadays. The items under discussion should not have appeared in a Supplementary Estimate at all, because they were not urgent, and they could have been easily anticipated, or could have remained over until the 31st March. The Vote was an instance of the slipshod and reckless way in which the Estimates were prepared. He would move a reduction in the Vote, but did not wish to interfere with other hon. Members who might desire to adopt that course.

Mr. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil): said he would ask the First Commissioner of Works to explain certain of the items. He wished to know whether the Government had considered the advisability of doing its own insurance. Great municipalities were now insuring their own property, and were thereby saving in some cases as much as 75 per cent. of what they had formerly paid to the insurances companies. The insurance charges of the Government must be very heavy, and he trusted that the right hon. Gentleman would inform the Committee whether Government insurance was effected in private offices, or whether the Government had an Insurance Department of its own. Then with reference to the items for fuel and household articles, they were all aware of the tremendous increase in the cost of coal, and some of them were equally aware that practically every penny of that increase found its way into the pockets of the employers. It would be interesting to know from the First Commissioner of Works how many contracts for fuel were placed with members of the House of Commons or with companies in which hon. Members were shareholders. It was of the utmost importance to know exactly how public funds were being spent. With reference to the item for the supply of water, he should like an explanation from the right hon. Gentleman as to the sum of £1,200 extra which was required. They were all aware that the London water companies had that day withdrawn a most absurd proposal with regard to making cisterns compulsory in connection with the water supply of dwellings. It might be that the £1,200, or some part of it, was required to enable the Government to comply with the demands of the water companies in regard to cisterns. If that were so, the money would not now be needed. The water cisterns which were to be made compulsory were specified in the proposal put forward by the companies, and part of the specification was that the drainage pipe should be placed a few inches from the bottom of the cistern, the reason given being that if the exhaust pipe were placed at the bottom of the cistern dead cats, etc., would find their way down the drain pipe, and the companies would have to bear the expense of cleaning out the cisterns. Therefore the pipes were to be so arranged that dead cats and so on might remain in the cisterns and improve the quality of the water. He entirely agreed with what had been said with reference to bringing forward in a Supplementary Estimate items which ought to be included in the general Budget. It was a method of spending public money which should be censured in the strongest possible manner. He was a strong advocate of direct taxation, because if taxation had to be paid direct there would be economy, and fewer filibustering wars would be entered upon; but he was also in favour of direct account keeping. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would give the information he asked for.

MR. GODDARD (Ipswich) said that it was rather surprising that no amount of criticism seemed to be able to draw any reply from the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Vote. Surely the criticism which had been advanced was sufficiently serious to warrant some kind of reply. Attention had already been directed to Item C, for which £5,500 was asked. He thought it a very dangerous practice for Estimates of this kind to be passed without a proper explanation. The Committee had a perfect right to demand full details, and he would give an illustration to show the necessity of having them. Last year a question was raised by the Auditor General with reference to certain items in the furniture account. Among them was an item of £100 for the purchase and restoration of two portraits of King William IV. and Queen Adelaide for the Foreign Office, and the Auditor General reported that that item should not have appeared under the head of furniture, and should have obtained the special sanction of the Treasury. There was no information as to how the sum of £1,325 now asked for was to be expended, and it could not be known what the items were until the Estimates came before the Public Accounts Committee; but that was simply shutting the stable door after the steed had been stolen, as the expenditure could not then be prevented. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would no longer delay giving the information asked for with reference to the various items.

MR. AKERS DOUGLAS: I was waiting to reply until hon. Members had finished. First of all, I may take the point raised with regard to the explanation which is given regarding Item A and not given regarding the other items. It has always been the practice to give items for new works in detail, but not items for maintenance. Then with regard to the Census Buildings, we have been told that we ought to have foreseen the expenditure on regard to them, and that therefore there was no necessity to bring forward as a Supplementary Estimate. I think a sum of £4,000 was taken last year for the preparation of buildings for the purpose if collecting the census. Since then very considerable additions to the information to be collected have been asked for by hon. Members, with the result that an extra staff has to be provided. Therefore it can hardly be said that we could have foreseen what might have been required in the year to come. Then I was asked by the hon. Member for Leicester a question with regard to the Vote for the King's Bench and Probate Registries Buildings in Manchester. He also asked me the separate cost of the site and buildings. The total estimated cost is £19,800, of which the site cost £11,100 and the buildings £8,700. As against that, the old buildings are being sold for some £4,500. He also asked me for particulars with regard to the material used in the buildings, and also as to proper supervision during their construction. The materials are properly selected and every care is taken by competent surveyors to see that the Government gets value for its money. The hon. Member for West Islington asked me a question with regard to the Patent Office Extension, and he said that at all events in this case we might have foreseen the extra expenditure. I think, however, that he will absolve us from any want of prevision when I tell him that our object is to hasten on the erection of this building in order that we may provide library accommodation for the Patent Office, and thereby set free a sum of £700 a year now paid for the use of a temporary library. The lease for the temporary library terminates this year, and if we are unable to give up the premises we may have to renew it. Then there was a question raised with regard to the Royal Mint. That item is required by a slight addition which is required by the Mint authorities. With regard to Hertford House, the supplementary sum is for extra furniture which is desired by the trustees and which was not contemplated when the original estimate was prepared. Having regard to the enormous value to this country of this collection, I hope the Committee will not grudge this money, especially when the great taste shown by the trustees in the preparation of the building is considered. Then I was asked about the War Office accommodation. The supplementary sum is explained by the necessity of acquiring a fresh office in consequence of the very large amount of work which has been thrown on the War Office during the past year. I should like to point out that this expenditure will tend towards the concentration of the clerks and the offices of the Department. I do not know whether it will surprise hon. Members when I tell them that only last year the War Office was working under no less than seventeen different roofs, some of them a mile apart.

It being midnight, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Resolutions to be reported to-morrow; Committee also report Progress; to sit again to-morrow.

MINES (EIGHT HOURS) BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

Clause 1.

Committee report Progress; to sit again upon Wednesday, 12th June.

PRESENCE OF THE SOVEREIGN IN PARLIAMENT.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That it is expedient that a Select Committee be appointed to join with a Committee of the Lords to consider the accommodation available in the House of Lords when the Sovereign is personally present in Parliament, and the advisability of substituting Westminster Hall on such an occasion for the House of Lords:

That a Message be sent to the Lords to acquaint them therewith."—(*Sir William Walrond.*)

MR. FLAVIN: I object.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Sir WILLIAM WALROND, Devonshire, Tiverton) said he hoped the hon. Member would not persist in his objection, as there was a general desire that the Committee should be appointed.

MR. FLAVIN said he understood the Committee was being appointed in connection with the King's Coronation, and if the right hon. Gentleman would give him a guarantee that that portion of the King's Coronation Oath which was objectionable to Catholics would be removed he would consider the advisability of permitting the motion to pass.

SIR WILLIAM WALROND said the Committee would have nothing to do with the Coronation.

MR. FLAVIN: I object.

Motion deferred.

Adjourned at five minutes after Twelve of the clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Friday, 1st March, 1901.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with:—

Aire and Calder Navigation [H.L.].
Bath Gas Light and Coke [H.L.].
Birmingham (City) Tramways [H.L.].
Bristol, Clifton, and West of England Zoological Society [H.L.].
Central London Railway [H.L.].
Chester Gas [H.L.].
City and Brixton Railway [H.L.].
City and South London Railway [H.L.].
Llanelly and Mynydd Mawr Railway [H.L.].
London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway [H.L.].
Newcastle-upon-Tyne and Gateshead Gas [H.L.].
Newport (Isle of Wight) Gas [H.L.].
New Swindon Gas [H.L.].
Shrewsbury Gas [H.L.].
South Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railways [H.L.].
South Essex Water [H.L.].
Weston-super-Mare Gas [H.L.].
Wisbech Water [H.L.].

The same were ordered to lie on the Table.

CHESTER CORPORATION TRAMWAYS BILL [H.L.].

Presented, and read 1^a.

ISLINGTON AND EUSTON RAILWAY BILL.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read a second time."—(*The Earl of Morley.*)

THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND: My Lords, this is one of several Bills dealing with electric railways in the Metropolis, and I should like to know if it is considered that the principle of these Bills is assented to by our not opposing them on Second Reading. I understand that an inquiry is being carried on at the present moment with regard to these Bills.

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES (The Earl of MORLEY): I may state, in reply to the question of the noble Duke, that the reading of private Bills a second time in no way commits the House to the principle of these Bills. That is, I think, generally admitted. As the noble Duke will see, I have placed a motion on the Paper for Monday, which I hope your Lordships will approve, to refer the principle of these Bills to a Joint Committee. The Bills must be read a second time before they can go to that Committee; but the noble Duke need be under no apprehension that the House commits itself to the principle of the Bills by assenting to the Second Reading.

On Question agreed to. Bill read 2^a accordingly.

ARLESEY GAS BILL [H.L.].

ASPATRIA, SILLOTH, AND DISTRICT WATER BILL [H.L.].

BARROW-IN-FURNESS CORPORATION BILL [H.L.].

BELFAST HARBOUR BILL [H.L.].

BOLTON CORPORATION BILL [H.L.].

BOURNEMOUTH CORPORATION BILL [H.L.].

BRISTOL CORPORATION CEMETERY BILL [H.L.].

BRISTOL CORPORATION (DOCKS AND RAILWAYS, ETC.) BILL [H.L.].

BROADSTAIRS AND ST. PETER'S WATER AND IMPROVEMENT BILL [H.L.].

CHESTERFIELD IMPROVEMENT BILL [H.L.].

DOVER CORPORATION BILL [H.L.].

DOVER HARBOUR BILL [H.L.].

FOLKESTONE CORPORATION BILL [H.L.].

HANDSWORTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL BILL [H.L.].

HARROGATE WATER BILL [H.L.].

HENRY DIAPER AND COMPANY (DELIVERY WARRANTS) BILL [H.L.].

HEYWOOD AND MIDDLETON WATER BOARD BILL [H.L.].

KING'S NORTON AND NORTHFIELD URBAN DISTRICT TRAMWAYS BILL [H.L.].

Read 2^a.

LEEDS CORPORATION (GENERAL POWERS) BILL [H.L.].

LEEDS CORPORATION WATER BILL [H.L.].

LLANELLY HARBOUR BILL [H.L.].

MANCHESTER AND LIVERPOOL ELECTRIC EXPRESS RAILWAY BILL [H.L.].

MANCHESTER CORPORATION BILL [H.L.].

MERSEY DOCKS AND HARBOUR BOARD BILL [H.L.].

NORTH-EAST LONDON RAILWAY BILL [H.L.].

OAKHAM WATER BILL [H.L.].

PICCADILLY AND CITY RAILWAY BILL [H.L.].

POULTON-LE-FYLDE GAS BILL [H.L.].

PRESTATYN WATER BILL [H.L.].

RIPON CORPORATION BILL [H.L.].

RUGBY WATER AND IMPROVEMENT BILL [H.L.].

SALFORD CORPORATION BILL [H.L.].

SHEFFIELD CORPORATION BILL [H.L.].

SHIELDS BRIDGE BILL [H.L.].

SMETHWICK CORPORATION BILL [H.L.].

SOUTHPORT WATER (TRANSFER) BILL [H.L.].

STOCKPORT CORPORATION WATER BILL [H.L.].

STRATTON AND BUDE IMPROVEMENT BILL [H.L.].

WARKWORTH HARBOUR BILL [H.L.].

Read 2^a.

WEST AND SOUTH LONDON JUNCTION RAILWAY BILL [H.L.].

Standing Order No. 86A considered (according to Order), and dispensed with. Leave given to present the said Bill. Bill presented and read 1^a.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

INDIA (NORTH-WEST FRONTIER).

Papers regarding British relations with the neighbouring tribes on the North-west Frontier of India, and Punjab Frontier Administration; presented [by Command], and ordered to lie on the Table.

PRISONS (SCOTLAND).

I. Rule made by the Secretary for Scotland appointing the police cells at Haddington to be a legal prison for the detention of untried prisoners for a period not exceeding fourteen days before or during trial, and of convicted prisoners for a period not exceeding seven days from the date of conviction.

II. Rules made by the Secretary for Scotland under the Prisons (Scotland) Act, 1877, establishing new rates of dietaries for the several classes of prisoners.

LOCAL REGISTRATION OF TITLE (IRELAND) ACT, 1891, AND THE SMALL DWELLINGS ACQUISITION ACT, 1899.

Rules dated 5th December, 1900.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

CHARITABLE AGENCIES FOR THE RELIEF OF WIDOWS AND ORPHANS OF SOLDIERS AND SAILORS.

Commons Message considered (according to Order).

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Lord RAGLAN): My Lords, I beg to move the motion standing in my name.

Moved, "That this House do concur in the following resolution communicated by the Commons—namely, 'That it is expedient that a Joint Committee of Lords and Commons be appointed to consider the various charitable agencies now in operation, and the funds available for relieving widows and orphans of soldiers and sailors, with a view to insuring that the funds subscribed by local and private benevolence are applied to the best advantage in supplementing a scheme of Government Pensions for widows and orphans of soldiers and sailors who have lost their lives in war.'"—(*Lord Raglan.*)

EARL SPENCER: My Lords, I think the noble Lord is pursuing rather an unusual course in moving this motion without giving the House the slightest explanation. I want to know what is the object of this Committee. This matter has been before the public for a great many years, particularly in connection with the Patriotic Fund, though since the Transvaal War it has come more into prominence as a result of the generous contributions which have been made to various funds in various parts of the country. Almost all the benevolent funds for the relief of those connected with the war have had large sums of money to distribute, and there has been a very strong feeling as to whether or not overlapping and abuse have followed in consequence. Though, of course, I may make some conjectures, I am quite at a loss to know what the object of this Committee is. I am not going to say a word in condemnation of the way the Patriotic Fund has been administered. All I will say is that I know it has not inspired confidence in the country; but at the same time I believe there has been a great deal of misrepresentation. As far as I can make out, there have been six or seven inquiries already of this kind. There was a Committee, over which my lamented friend the late Lord Herschell presided, in 1895; there was a Select Committee of the House of Commons in 1896; there was a Committee of the Commissioners themselves, presided over by my noble and learned friend Lord Davey, who I regret to see is not in his place to-day; there was the Committee appointed by His Majesty the King, then Prince of Wales; and the last Committee was the one held lately under the able chairmanship of Lord Justice Collins, and on which my noble friend Lord Northbrook served. These Committees all made Reports, and finally there was a conference in the City, under the presidency of the ex-Lord Mayor (Sir Alfred Newton), when some important resolutions were carried in order to give effect to the different recommendations that were made by Lord Justice Collins's Committee. Is this Committee to go over all the old ground again? We have heard a great deal recently of committees and commissions, and I confess I am rather shy of them, for they often delay action which it is necessary should be taken. It was only a few nights ago that the noble Marquess at the head of the Government protested that, if a Committee was granted to my noble friend Lord Avebury on the subject of hours in shops, it must not be thought that the Government would be bound to follow the advice of any committee, although that advice would have a considerable amount of weight. With regard to the Patriotic Fund, inquiry has been made *ad nauseam*; but possibly it is not for that purpose that this Committee is to meet. I notice that the terms of reference speak of a scheme which I should hail with great satisfaction—namely, a scheme of Government pensions for widows and orphans of soldiers and sailors who have lost their lives in war. We have not heard anything of that in this House, but it was one of the recommendations of Lord Justice Collins's Committee, and I suppose the Government have accepted it. It does not seem to me at all necessary to have a Committee to decide how the different funds are to be applied in supplementing such a scheme. The Government have already all the necessary information; and therefore, without wishing to oppose the noble Lord's motion, I think the House is entitled to some explanation with regard to it.

*LORD RAGLAN: My Lords, I can only refer the noble Earl to what has been said on this subject in another place. It is proposed by the Government to start a scheme under which the widows and orphans of men who have lost their lives in the service of the country shall receive pensions out of public funds. That being so, the position of these funds, which have hitherto been the means of supporting them, will be changed, and they will become auxiliary. It is therefore necessary to devise some scheme for dealing with them. I am afraid that is all the information I can give the noble Earl on the subject.

*THE EARL OF NORTHBROOK: My Lords, I was a member of Lord Justice Collins's Committee, and I concur in what has fallen from the noble Earl (Lord Spencer) on this subject. I cannot understand how the Government should think it necessary to appoint a Joint Committee of both Houses of Parliament to deal with a matter on which every single piece of information that can possibly be produced is before them. I also agree with my noble friend that, the House of Commons having asked for the appointment of a Committee, it would be ungracious to decline. But I wish that the noble Lord who represents the War Office in this House had been able to inform us what the scheme of pensions is which the Government are going to propose for the widows and orphans of soldiers and sailors who lose their lives in the service. Unless that scheme is notified beforehand, it would be perfectly useless for this Committee to undertake its labours. The whole of the future arrangements must depend upon what the amount of the pensions to be given by the Government is, and how far those pensions will extend; and unless that information is before the Joint Committee, I hold that the Joint Committee had very much better not meet. However, while associating myself with the observations made by the noble Earl with respect to the want of necessity for appointing this Committee, I am not prepared to oppose the appointment of the Committee.

*LORD WELBY: My Lords, as an individual member of the Patriotic Fund Commission, I should like to say that I have heard with great interest and satisfaction the statement made by the noble Lord the Under Secretary of State for War with regard to the scheme of Government pensions for the widows and orphans of soldiers and sailors. That is an entirely new departure, and, as the noble Lord said, it makes the voluntary funds upon which we have hitherto relied supplementary. The noble Lord's motion has the assent of the Patriotic Fund Commissioners, and I trust that the appointment of this Joint Committee will lead to a satisfactory arrangement. But I think it would assist the Committee very much if the Government were able to indicate in some form or other the lines on which they think that arrangement should be based.

On Question, agreed to; and message ordered to be sent to the Commons to acquaint them therewith.

House adjourned at a quarter before Five of the clock, to Monday next, a quarter before Eleven of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Friday, 1st *March*, 1901.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS (STANDING ORDER 62 COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order No. 62 has been complied with, viz.:—

Aldershot Gas and Water Bill.
Caledonian Railway Bill.
Gas Light and Coke Company Bill.
Gravesend Gas Bill.
Great Eastern Railway Bill.
Great Northern Railway Bill.
London, Tilbury, and Southend Railway Bill.
South Metropolitan Gas Bill.
Taff Vale Railway Bill.
Tendring Hundred Water Bill.

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time.

PRIVATE BILLS (STANDING ORDER 63 COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order No. 63 has been complied with, viz.:—

British Gas Light Company Bill.
Crawley Gas Bill.
District Messenger and Theatre Ticket Company Bill.
Dublin St. James' Gate Brewery Tramways Bill.
Gateshead and District Tramways Bill.
Horley District Gas Bill.
Leatherhead Gas Bill.
Wells Water Bill.

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time.

BEXLEY TRAMWAYS.

Petition, and Bill ordered to be brought in by Sir William Hart Dyke and Mr. Forster.

THAMES AND SEVERN PROVISIONAL ORDER BILL.

Read a second time, and committed.

STANDING ORDERS.

Resolutions reported from the Committee:—

1. "That, in the case of the Cambrian Railways Petition, the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with:—That the

parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill."

2. "That, in the case of the South Yorkshire Electric Power Petition, the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with:—That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill, provided that the powers to exempt the Company proposed to be incorporated by the Bill, and their undertaking from the provisions of Section 81 of the Schedule to the Electric Lighting (Clauses) Act, 1899, be struck out of the Bill:—That the Committee on the Bill do report how far such Order has been complied with."

Resolutions agreed to.

CAMBRIAN RAILWAYS.

Report [this day] from the Select Committee on Standing Orders read.

Bill ordered to be brought in by Mr. Humphreys-Owen and Mr. Bryn Roberts.

SOUTH YORKSHIRE ELECTRIC POWER.

Report [this day] from the Select Committee on Standing Orders read.

Bill ordered to be brought in by Sir William Hornby, Mr. Helder, and Mr. Platt-Higgins.

PETITIONS.

BEER BILL.

Petition from Hollinwood, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

CHURCH DISCIPLINE.

Petition from Wickham Market, for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (HIGHER GRADE AND EVENING CONTINUATION SCHOOLS).

Petitions for alteration of Law, from Keighley; Middlesbrough; Sedgley; and Southowram; to lie upon the Table.

POOR LAW OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1896.

Petition for alteration of Law, from West Ham; Guildford; South Shields; and Bedwellty; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN BILL.

Petitions in favour, from United Free Church of Scotland Temperance Union; and Southampton; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

PAUPERISM (ENGLAND AND WALES) (MONTHLY STATEMENTS).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 28th February; *Mr. Grant Lawson*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 69.]

PAUPERISM (ENGLAND AND WALES) (HALF-YEARLY STATEMENTS).

Copy ordered, "of Statement of the number of Paupers relieved on the 1st day of January, 1901, and similar Statement for the 1st day of July, 1901 (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 136, of Session 1900)."—*Mr. Grant Lawson.*)

QUESTIONS.

SOUTH AFRICA — JAMESON RAID INDEMNITY — CHARTERED COMPANY'S COUNTERCLAIM.

MR. ALFRED DAVIES (Carmarthen Boroughs): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies if his attention has been called to the statement of Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer, in the House, on the 13th December, 1900,* in which he said for every pound fairly due in consequence of the Jameson raid from the Chartered Company to the late Transvaal Government at least £5 is probably due to the Company from the late Transvaal Government in consequence of the war entered into by that Government against this country; if so, whether he will communicate to the House particulars of this set-off of the Chartered Company.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir M. HICKS BEACH, Bristol, W.): What happened was this: The hon. Member for East Northamptonshire asked whether the assets of the Transvaal, which we had been discussing, included the claim of the late Transvaal Government on the Chartered Company. I said that any question on that matter should be addressed to the Colonial Secretary, but, speaking merely my own opinion, I added the words which the hon. Member now quotes. Of course, what I meant, and what I believe I was

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*See *The Parliamentary Debates* [Fourth Series], Vol. lxxxviii., page 753.

understood by the House to mean, was that anything due from the Company seemed to me to have been wiped out by the injury done to the Company by the war. I did not go into details, nor have I any knowledge of them, much less did I admit, or suggest, that the Company could have any claim against Her late Majesty's Government, or the present administration of the Transvaal.

MR. CHANNING (Northamptonshire, E.): May I ask the right hon. Gentleman whether we are to understand his answer to mean that the taxpayers of this country are not entitled to have those details gone into before this question is determined?

SIR M. HICKS BEACH: It was only a general statement of my opinion, and I do not think there is any reason for going into details.

MR. ALFRED DAVIES: May I ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he means to press this claim against the Chartered Company?

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! This cannot be made an occasion for general discussion about the claims of or against the Chartered Company.

GOVERNMENT'S KNOWLEDGE BEFORE THE WAR OF ALLIANCE BETWEEN THE TWO REPUBLICS.

MR. C. P. SCOTT (Lancashire, Leigh): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury at what period in the year 1899 the Government were informed that if war ensued between the Transvaal and this country, as a result of the differences which were made apparent at the Bloemfontein Conference, the Free State would undoubtedly throw in her lot with the sister Republic; and whether the attention of the Government was called to a Report issued by the Intelligence Department of the War Office four months before the outbreak of the war, entitled Military Notes on the Dutch Republics of South Africa, of which copies have within the past few days been placed in the library of the House of Commons.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): All the information the Government received upon the subject dealt with in the question was either in the nature of opinion, and therefore necessarily conjectural, or else depended upon the assurances of ex-President Steyn, which were, unfortunately, mendacious.

TREATMENT OF BOER WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

MR. JOHN ELLIS (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether there has been any revocation of the policy of placing the women and children confined in the concentration camps in South Africa, whose husbands and fathers are in the field, on reduced rations; or is that policy still being carried out.

SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT (Sheffield, Ecclesall): Before the right hon. Gentleman answers that question will he say whether it is not a fact that the great majority of the women and children now concentrated in camps have gone there by their own desire to obtain protection from natives and Boer marauders?

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): I think that the great majority of the women and children have gone into the camps by their own desire. Their motives I am not responsible for. I have not yet received full information, but Lord Kitchener has informed me that a sufficient allowance is being given to all families in camp, and that they are satisfied and comfortable.

PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.): Has the Secretary for War any further news from South Africa?

MR. BRODRICK: No, Sir; none beyond that already published.

ARMY WATER-CARTS—GENERAL DUNDONALD'S STATEMENT.

MR. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been called to a public statement of General Lord Dundonald to the effect that hundreds of our soldiers are buried in South Africa today who would have been alive had proper water-carts been supplied; and can he state who was responsible for the type of water-carts selected; and what steps, if any, he intends to take in the matter.

MR. BRODRICK: I have seen the statement in question. The barrel water-carts alluded to in the statement have been superseded, after due inquiry and experiment, since 1895 by tank water-carts, and nearly all the water-carts sent to South Africa have been of the latter pattern, though a few of the former were also sent. Printed forms were sent to South Africa requesting the opinion of officers on all articles of equipment used there. This equipment, with others, will be considered in the light of the replies.

MR. DALZIEL: Do I understand that the water-carts condemned by Lord Dundonald have been changed?

MR. BRODRICK: I can give no further information.

SECRET ARMY CONTRACTS.

COLONEL NOLAN (Galway, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can state how much money has been spent up to 31st December last, or other convenient date, on secret contracts or secret purchases in connection with the South African war; and can he state when purchases or contracts are kept secret from this House who determines or advises the prices to be given, particularly under the following heads—namely, conveyance of troops, arms, ammunition, food, forage, tentage, tools and engines, railway material, clothing and bedding, hospital stores, animals, and saddlery and harness.

MR. BRODRICK: I am afraid I cannot give the information asked for by the hon. Member in the first part of his question. Terms of contract are settled, generally speaking, by the Director of Contracts in consultation with the military authorities concerned, and subject to the concurrence of the Financial Secretary and Secretary of State where the importance of the matter requires it. The chief exceptions to the above rule are the conveyance of troops by sea, which rests mainly with the Admiralty, and the purchase of horses, which rests with the Inspector General of Remounts.

MILITARY FUNERALS — ARTHUR DODD, SHROPSHIRE YEOMANRY.

MR. JOHN CAMPBELL (Armagh, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War will he say if the War Office refused to send home for interment at Berrington, near Shrewsbury, the body of Arthur Dodd, one of the Shropshire Yeomanry, who recently died of pneumonia at Aldershot, and if a subscription for the purpose had to be collected in his native village.

MR. BRODRICK: There was no refusal on the part of the War Office to send home the body for interment. Private Dodd's friends were informed of his death, and an undertaker representing them came to the barracks and asked permission to remove the body for burial. Permission was granted and the body was removed. The undertaker asked no question as to the War Office defraying the expenses, nor has any communication been received from the man's friends on the subject. On application, the usual amount, representing the cost of burial at Aldershot, will be paid by the War Department.

YEOMANRY TRAINING.

MR. HERMON-HODGE (Oxfordshire, Henley): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can inform the House upon what terms and conditions Yeomanry regiments will this year be called up for their annual training.

MR. BRODRICK: I will deal with this question on introducing the Army Estimates.

MR. HERMON-HODGE: Will the Report of the Yeomanry Committee then be in the hands of hon. Members?

MR. BRODRICK: I cannot say. It has, however, been laid on the Table.

HAMPSHIRE YEOMANRY.

SIR BARRINGTON SIMEON (Southampton): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that several members of the Hampshire Yeomanry were attested and sworn in at Winchester on 12th February, when it was intimated to them that they would be required to join in three or four days, whereas they have not been required to join yet; whether he is aware that, although several of these young men gave up their employment to join the Yeomanry and are consequently without funds to pay for their board and lodging, on their applying at Winchester for a portion of the pay due to them since

12th February they were informed that they could receive no pay before joining; and whether, considering the pecuniary difficulties in which they are involved, orders may be given that these men should at once receive the pay due to them since 12th February.

MR. BRODRICK: The officer commanding the Hampshire Yeomanry paid the men their expenses and informed them that they would be entitled to draw their pay from the 12th. Instructions have been sent to this officer to carry out the regulations under which men should be regularly paid after being medically examined and attested from the date of attestation.

LITERATURE FOR TROOPS AT THE FRONT.

*MR. MANSFIELD (Lincolnshire, Spalding): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether any information can be given as to the disposal of books and papers sent out to men serving at the front in South Africa, and especially to the wounded in hospitals, whether any further parcels can now be sent, and how and to whom they may be addressed.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE WAR OFFICE (Lord STANLEY, Lancashire, Westhoughton): Parcels intended for individuals can be sent as heretofore, addressed to the man at his unit in South Africa. Parcels intended for distribution should be addressed to the Officer Commanding the Army Service Corps at Cape Town, marked for the use of the unit or hospital for which they are intended. They should be sent through the Embarking Staff Officer at Southampton, carriage paid to that port.

IRISH IMPERIAL YEOMEN—FACILITIES FOR SETTLEMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA.

MR. J. P. FARRELL (Longford, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether any, and if so how many, of the Imperial Yeomanry raised in the midland counties of Ireland are yet at the front; whether promises were made to some of these men that their services would be rewarded when the Boer farms came to be distributed as spoils of war; and can he state whether any of these men have already left the forces to settle in the country.

LORD STANLEY: There is no information available to show how many men of the six Irish companies of the Imperial Yeomanry came from the midland counties of Ireland, or whether any of them left the force to settle in South Africa. Nothing is known of the promises alluded to, but it is contemplated that opportunities for settlement in these countries will be afforded to eligible men.

H.M.'S RESERVE REGIMENTS OF CAVALRY — CONDITIONS OF RE-ENLISTMENT.

CAPTAIN JESSEL (St. Pancras, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether non-commissioned officers and men of His Majesty's Reserve regiments of cavalry, on determining their engagements, will be invited to re-enlist on terms similar to those offered by the Royal Warrant of 23rd February, 1901, to soldiers now serving in the Royal Reserve battalions of infantry, or whether they will be discharged on completion of their year's service.

LORD STANLEY: The non-commissioned officers and men in question will be allowed to re-enlist under the terms of the Royal Warrant of the 31st March, 1900, issued as a special Army Order on the 28th April of that year.

PRIVATE JAMES RAMSEY, 1ST BATTALION ROYAL INNISKILLING FUSILIERS.

MR. O'DOHERTY (Donegal, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if his attention has been called to the case of Private James Ramsey, 1st Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, who, although the time for which he enlisted with the colours, as well as his reserve time, has expired, is still at the front in South Africa; and whether immediate steps will be taken to have him sent home; and, if not, will he explain why he is detained.

LORD STANLEY: The Secretary of State's attention has not been called to this case, nor is there any reason why it should be so called. The man in question is liable under the terms of his attestation for Section D of the Army Reserve to serve on till the 10th of July next, unless demobilisation is ordered before that date.

NAVAL ENGINEERS AND ARTIFICERS.

Sir FORTESCUE FLANNERY (Yorkshire, W.R., Shipley): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if he can state how many engine-room artificers and stokers have been induced during the current financial year to join the Navy; whether only 55 per cent. of the engine-room artificers, and only 59 per cent. of the number of the stokers, authorised by Parliament have been obtained; and whether, in view of the difficulty of obtaining proper supplies of men for these branches of the service, the conditions of employment will be revised and improved; whether the Admiralty advertised in December last for applications for assistant engineers for the Navy, distributing such advertisements throughout the varions seaports for the purpose of ensuring applications; whether more than three applications were received; how many engineers were passed into the service in consequence of such advertisements; and whether any improvement in the conditions of service of engineers is contemplated.

The CIVIL LORD of the ADMIRALTY (Mr. Pretyman, Suffolk, Woodbridge): Two hundred and fifty engine-room artificers and 1,566 stokers were entered between 1st April, 1900, and 16th February, 1901. On the 1st instant 97 per cent. of the engine-room artificers voted by Parliament, and 98 per cent. of the stokers, were borne. There is not any difficulty experienced in obtaining sufficient men of both these ratings on existing terms. During a great part of the year restrictions have been placed on recruiting in order to keep within the numbers voted and to ensure the entry of only specially desirable men. The Admiralty caused advertisements to be inserted in two papers only—namely, *The Engineer* and *Engineering*—in December last for candidates for assistant engineers for temporary service in the Navy. Several applications were received, but only three were accepted as suitable. These three passed the required examination and were entered in the service. No alteration of a special nature is at present contemplated in the condition of service of engineers, but with a view to any improvement which is desirable in the best interests of the Navy, these officers, in common with all others, have their conditions of service always under consideration at the Admiralty.

Mr. WILLIAM ALLAN (Gateshead): I should like to ask if the failure of engine-room artificers to join is due to the nature of the test applied in the dockyards, it being gauge-making rather than practised engineering?

Mr. PRETYMAN: Probably the candidates are better able than the Admiralty to say what has prevented them from joining.

INDIA—PREVENTION OF FAMINE—IRRIGATION WORKS.

Mr. H. J. WILSON (Yorkshire, W.R., Holmfirth): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether any information has been obtained from the Governments of Bombay and of the Central Provinces, since the close of last session, as to any projects for the construction of reservoirs or embankments on the Nerbudda or Tapti rivers, with a view to the protection of the western part of the Central Provinces and of Gujerat from drought and famine; and, if no proposals of this kind have yet been made, will he take steps to ensure that early attention be given to this matter.

The SECRETARY of STATE for INDIA (Lord G. Hamilton, Middlesex, Ealing): I have received since the end of last session a Report from the Bombay Government in which it is stated that an irrigation tank is under construction which will irrigate a large tract of country adjoining the Tapti river. The Government of India have most carefully considered the question of the extension of irrigation wherever practicable, with a view to the prevention of famine; and I will forward a copy of the hon. Member's question and of my answer to India.

CHINA—INFLICTION OF FINES BY GERMAN AUTHORITIES.

Mr. NORMAN (Wolverhampton, S.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he has any official information to the effect that the German authorities in China are extorting from the local authorities sums of money without consultation with the representatives of the other Powers; and, if not, whether he will make inquiries upon this point.

The UNDER SECRETARY of STATE for FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Viscount Cranborne, Rochester): We understand that fines have been inflicted in certain cases by the German military authorities, but this would be a matter within the discretion of the Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief.

SAMOA DISTURBANCES—BRITISH CLAIMS FOR COMPENSATION.

MR. MAXWELL (Dumfriesshire): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether all the claims for compensation for losses suffered by British subjects during the disturbances in Samoa have now been received by the Foreign Office; and whether any of these claims have been settled; and, if not, can he state the cause of delay.

VISCOUNT CRANBORNE: It is not known that there are any claims for compensation for losses suffered by British subjects during the disturbances in Samoa other than those received and noted at the Foreign Office. None of these claims have been settled, the arguments of the British and American Governments in relation to the military operations in Samoa not having yet been presented to the arbitrator. With regard to claims not occasioned by the military operations His Majesty's Government are in communication with the German Government.

CRETE — PAPERS ON ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCIAL CONDITION.

MR. STEVENSON (Suffolk, Eye): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he can state when the Papers relating to the administration and financial condition of Crete, promised on the 11th of December last, will be laid upon the Table.

VISCOUNT CRANBORNE: I very much regret the delay that has taken place. The Papers are being prepared and will be laid upon the Table as soon as possible.

ELECTRIC SUPPLY BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES—RETURN OF EXPENDITURE.

MR. BARTLEY (Islington, W.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he will grant the Return showing the results of the expenditure on the supply of electricity by local authorities on the Paper this day.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): I think that the time has come when a Return giving the expenditure on the supply of electrical energy is desirable. The form of the Return suggested by my hon. friend is, I think, capable of improvement. I will consider the matter and communicate further with him.

CENTRAL LONDON RAILWAY—VIBRATION.

*MR. COMPTON RICKETT (Scarborough): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he has satisfied himself that the vibration of the traffic on the Central London Railway is a cause of injury and annoyance to owners and occupiers of the property adjoining the line of route; and, if so, whether he is prepared to advise Parliament to protect the property in the neighbourhood of the proposed new electric lines either by means of improved construction and traction or by compulsory purchase of such property.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: With reference to the first part of the hon. Member's question an expert committee is sitting to inquire into the matter, and until it reports I am not in a position to express any opinion. With regard to the second part, the Bills dealing with the new electric lines have been introduced in another place. I understand it is probable that a proposal will be made to refer to a joint committee the consideration of several questions affecting them. Should such proposal be made I hope this House will agree to it.

BEER POISONING IN THE STAFFORDSHIRE POTTERIES.

MR. COGHILL (Stoke-upon-Trent): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the evidence given before the Arsenical Poisoning Commission as to the similarity of the symptoms of poisoning from arsenicised beer and from plumbism, and that Professors Oliver and Thorpe have reported that beer is largely taken in the Staffordshire Potteries as an antidote to plumbism; and whether many of the reported cases of plumbism in the four last months of 1900 were cases of arsenical poisoning.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. RITCHIE, Croydon): Having made in quiry into this matter I find that during the last four months of 1900 three cases reported as cases of plumbism were considered by the Medical Inspector of Factories and Workshops to be really cases of arsenical poisoning, and were excluded from the Returns of lead-poisoning. The cases are always carefully scrutinised for mistakes in reporting, and there is no reason to think there were any other such cases not detected.

MR. COGHILL: Has the right hon. Gentleman received any complaint as to the character of the beer supplied by the local breweries?

*MR. RITCHIE: No, Sir.

DEFENCE OF POOR PRISONERS.

MR. JOHN CAMPBELL: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is aware that provision is made for the defence of poor prisoners in Germany, France, Denmark, the United States, Scotland, and several of our colonies; also that the Bar council have recommended in favour of making similar provision here, and whether he intends taking any steps in the matter.

*MR. RITCHIE: I do not see my way to take any action in this matter.

FATALITY AT HOOTON'S FACTORY, NOTTINGHAM.

MR. TENNANT (Berwickshire): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the death of George Benton, which took place on 1st February at Messrs. Hooton's factory, Nottingham; and will he inquire whether the planing machine by which Benton was crushed to death was erected before or after 1st January, 1896, and whether, in view of the terrible nature of the accident, he will consider the advisability of applying the provisions of Section 9 of the Act of 1895 to all self-acting machines irrespective of the date of the erection of the factory.

*MR. RITCHIE: Inquiry is being made into this case.

SPECIAL RULES IN THE POTTERY TRADE.

MR. TENNANT: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department at what date the proposed draft special rules, suggested to employers in a Home Office circular of December, 1899, and put before the employees in August, 1900, which have recently been formally circulated as proposed special rules, were communicated to the workpeople employed in the pottery trade.

*MR. RITCHIE: The first draft of the rules was published in the newspapers circulating in the pottery district immediately after it had been communicated to the employers. There is no provision in the Factory Acts requiring that the rules should be formally proposed to the workpeople in the same way as to the employers; but any person interested can be (and has been) supplied with a copy for the asking, and I have directed the inspector for the district to furnish copies of the rules as now proposed to representative workpeople.

POOR LAW VALUATION.

DR. AMBROSE (Mayo, W.): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board if he can state the average poor law valuation per head of population in England, and what is the highest and what the lowest valuation per head.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. WALTER LONG, Bristol, S.): In 1899 the amount of rateable value per head of the estimated population of England and Wales was £5 10s. 8½d. There are no very recent figures which would give the information asked for in the latter part of the question; but in 1894 the highest amount of rateable value per head of the population according to the Census of 1891, of any poor law union in England and Wales was—excluding the City of London, the circumstances of which are exceptional—£14 5s. 8½d., and the lowest £2 1s. 6d.

USE OF PRESERVATIVES IN FOOD.

MR. ARCHDALE (Fermanagh, N.): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board if any Report has yet been received from the Departmental Committee appointed in 1899 to inquire into the use of preservatives and colouring matter in food.

MR. WALTER LONG: The Report has not at present been received, but I understand that it is in preparation.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES ACTS.

MR. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he will consider the advisableness of appointing a Committee of the House to consider the administration of local authorities under the various Housing of the Working Classes Acts, with the view to further assisting authorities in their efforts to deal with the problem.

MR. WALTER LONG: As I intimated in answer to the hon. Member yesterday, I am considering the whole question.

LONDON WATER INQUIRY COSTS.

MR. MACNAMARA: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether the legal expenses of counsel representing the various London local authorities in connection with the recent inquiry into the abortive regulations proposed by the London water companies will have to be borne by the London ratepayers, or whether it is within the competence of the Local Government Board to give the costs of the inquiry against the water companies.

MR. WALTER LONG: The Local Government Board have no power to require the water companies to pay the costs referred to in the question, and I may add that if I had such powers I should not consider they ought to be exercised in this case.

MR. MACNAMARA: Has the right hon. Gentleman any idea as to what the costs are likely to amount to?

MR. WALTER LONG: No, Sir; of course not.

GREAT SAUGHALL PARISH COUNCIL.

MR. HOULT (Cheshire, Wirral): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether his attention has been directed to the constitution of the last parish council of Great Saughall, and to the circumstances under which the outgoing chairman was re-elected, whereby a majority was given to the party defeated at the election of parish councillors; and whether he will take steps to prevent this occurring again.

MR. WALTER LONG: I am aware of the circumstances of the case referred to in the question. The matter is not one in which the Local Government Board are empowered to take action; but they have expressed their opinion that as the outgoing chairman of the parish council was a candidate for re-election he could not properly act as chairman of the meeting of the council during the election, and I trust that in future this opinion will be acted upon.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE REGISTERS—INCLEMENT WEATHER.

MR. MACNAMARA: I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education whether he is now prepared to say how far it may be found practicable to carry into effect his suggestion of July last, made during the discussion in the Standing Committee on Law of the Elementary Education Act, 1900, under which schools would not be required to mark the registers for purposes of averaging attendance on occasions upon which the number of children present might be much reduced by reason of the inclemency of the weather.

THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Sir J. GORST, Cambridge University): The Board of Education are now considering how far, in circumstances such as are described in the question, the managers may be relieved from the existing obligation to mark the registers and formally open the school.

COUNTY COURT FEES.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether there has yet been a reduction of county court fees, in accordance with the promises on the subject last made by the late Secretary to the Treasury and the late Attorney General.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.): A Committee has inquired into this subject, and a revised Fee Order will come into operation on the 1st April next. The result will be a considerable reduction of the fees in the class of case which the Committee considered to call for relief.

FOREIGN TELEGRAMS.

*SIR EDGAR VINCENT (Exeter): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, if he can inform the House of the average time of transmission of telegrams between London and New York, London and Paris, and London and Berlin.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The Postmaster General is not in a position to give the time of transmission of telegrams to New York, as the business is in the hands of the companies. As to the time between London and Paris and London and Berlin, he has had the telegrams of the 26th examined. The wires on that day were working well, and he finds that for the twenty-four hours the average time from the handing in of the messages at the counter to their receipt at the place of destination was thirty-two minutes in the case of Paris and thirty-five in the case of Berlin. In the busiest hours the time was longer, especially in the case of Berlin, where, however, he hopes to improve matters by the laying of an additional cable which is now being manufactured.

SORTING TESTS AT MOUNT PLEASANT.

CAPTAIN NORTON: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether, seeing that the auxiliary sorters at Mount Pleasant are now being called upon to sort at the rate of 1,000 in thirty minutes, with twenty-five mis-sorts allowed, and that the majority of these men are only occupied for about forty-five minutes per week upon sorting, he will consider the advisability of modifying the test; and can he say what is the present penalty in case of failure as regards the above-mentioned test.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: Auxiliary sorters are not required to sort at the rate mentioned. That rate has for many years past been regarded as the test of efficiency for the established sorting staff, but it has not hitherto been exacted from the auxiliaries. No penalty for inefficiency in sorting on the part of these auxiliaries has been imposed. It has been reported, however, that serious inconvenience involving delay to correspondence was being caused by the slow and incorrect sorting of some of them, and steps have been taken by means of additional teaching and practice to afford them an opportunity for improvement. If it should be found, however, that, notwithstanding these facilities, any auxiliary sorter is unable to attain to a reasonable proficiency, it may become necessary to dispense with his services.

LLANDRILLO (MERIONETHSHIRE) POSTMASTER.

MR. OSMOND-WILLIAMS (Merionethshire): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether his attention has been called to the fact that the newly appointed postmaster at Llandrillo, Merionethshire, is an innkeeper holding an innkeeper's licence; and whether it is in accordance with the Post Office regulations for a postmaster to be an innkeeper.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The person recently appointed sub-postmaster of Llandrillo, Merionethshire, is an innkeeper, but the appointment was made conditional on his giving up that business and providing unlicensed premises for the post office. It is not the practice of the Department to appoint to such posts persons holding a licence when other eligible candidates, equally suitable, can be found. In this instance it was not considered that, apart from the licence, any of the other candidates was as suitable as the one appointed.

IRISH LAND PURCHASE—WHITE ESTATE, BANTRY.

MR. GILHOOLY (Cork Co., W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state, approximately, when the sale of the White Estate, near Bantry, which was decided on some years ago, will take place.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover): The solicitors having carriage of the proceedings state that the rental for sale of the holdings on this estate will probably be settled in the course of a month. A request under the 40th section of the Act of 1896 can then be issued.

PLUMBRIDGE ASSAULT CASE—DISCHARGE OF THE PRISONERS MORRIS.

*MR. HEMPHILL (Tyrone, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord

Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the case of two brothers named Morris, who were lately sentenced to one month's imprisonment, with hard labour, at the petty sessions of Plumbridge, North Tyrone, though they themselves had been assaulted and beaten by the complainants, on the occasion which was the subject of the order; and whether he can state if a memorial on their behalf has been presented to the Lord Lieutenant; and, if so, when will his decision in the matter be made known.

Mr. WYNDHAM: The discharge of the two prisoners referred to in this question was ordered by the Lord Lieutenant on Wednesday last.

LABOURERS' COTTAGES IN CO. LONGFORD.

Mr. J. P. FARRELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state how much of the £40,000 grant-in-aid for erection of labourers' cottages in Ireland under the Land Act of 1896 has been passed to the credit of the Local Taxation Account for the Unions of Granard, Longford, and Ballymahon, in the county of Longford, and at what periods are these sums paid over.

Mr. WYNDHAM: The total payments to the 31st March, 1900, under Section 5 of the Land Act of 1891, as amended by the 39th section of the Act of 1896, has been as follows:—to Granard Union, £291 4s. 6d.; to Longford Union, £494 0s. 8d.; and to Ballymahon Union, £779 2s. 4d. The distribution of the grant in respect of each financial year takes place about the end of March.

POLICE PRECAUTIONS AT IRISH RAILWAY STATIONS.

Mr. J. P. FARRELL: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that every railway station in Ireland is in charge of a train constable, whose duty it is to take notes of arrivals and departures of persons by train, particularly those prominently engaged in Irish political life; how long this system has been in operation; and whether it is proposed to continue it.

Mr. WYNDHAM: The hon. Gentleman has, I think, been misinformed. The statements in the question are devoid of foundation.

Mr. J. P. FARRELL: I have not been misinformed. I know it from personal observation.

ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY—RECRUITING.

Mr. J. P. FARRELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that, contrary to a promise made in this House in June, 1896, that recruiting for the Royal Irish Constabulary would be discontinued, recruiting for that force is going on again; can he state the number of men called up during 1900, and the number yet required to keep up the force; and will he lay upon the Table of the House a Return showing the general distribution of these men throughout the country for the years 1899-1900.

Mr. WYNDHAM: I am aware that recruits are being enlisted for the constabulary; this is done to fill normal vacancies occurring in the force by retirements, deaths, etc. No promise was given in 1896 of the nature indicated in the first paragraph. The number of recruits admitted in 1900 was 620; the current rate of waste is about 46 men per month. In answer to the last paragraph, I would refer the hon. Member to the table at page 76 of the volume of Irish Criminal Statistics for 1899, which has been presented to Parliament and which shows the distribution of the force at the end of September, 1899.

Mr. FLYNN (Cork, N.): Are we to understand it is the intention of the authorities in Ireland to keep up the numbers of the Royal Irish Constabulary?

Mr. WYNDHAM: There has been a considerable reduction in recent years. We propose to keep the force at its present level.

IMPERIAL GRANTS-IN-AID OF IRISH LOCAL RATES.

Mr. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state the amount of the contribution from Imperial sources to Irish local authorities in aid of local rates for the years 1898 and 1899.

MR. WYNDHAM: I think my hon. friend will find the information he desires at pages 16 and 17 of Parliamentary Return No. 337, and page 12 of Return No. 336, both of last year.

CASTLEBAR PETTY SESSIONS DISTRICT—POLICE PROSECUTIONS.

MR. JOHN O'DONNELL (Mayo, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state the number of prosecutions in the Castlebar Petty Sessions District for the alleged trespass of cattle on the public roads during the years 1897, 1898, and 1899, respectively.

MR. WYNDHAM: The number of prosecutions for the offence mentioned was seventeen in 1897; fourteen in 1898; and twenty-nine in 1899, resulting in fifteen, twelve, and twenty-nine convictions respectively.

MR. JOHN O'DONNELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state the number of prosecutions in the Pontoon, Ballyvary, and Turlough police sub-districts within the Castlebar Petty Sessions District for the years 1897, 1898, and 1899 respectively, and the result of each prosecution; and, whether he can also state the number of times that the police in these sub-districts made seizures of illicit whiskey, or the material for its manufacture, for which no person was made amenable, together with the date of each such seizure.

MR. WYNDHAM: The information desired in the first paragraph is being prepared, and will be sent to the hon. Member when complete. I have forwarded to him a statement in answer to the second paragraph; it contains a number of dates which could not conveniently be read in the form of a reply to a question.

LICENSING LAWS, IRELAND—EQUAL VOTING ON MAGISTERIAL BENCHES.

MR. BOYLE (Donegal, W.): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney General for Ireland if his attention has been drawn to the decision in the King's Bench Division in Ireland, in the case of King (M'Intyre) versus The County Court Judge and Justices of the County Donegal, in which it was decided that when the voting of the magistrates on the bench at licensing sessions is equal no adjudication on the matter at issue has taken place; and, whether this decision applies to cases heard at petty sessions courts in Ireland when the Bench is equally divided.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N.): The King's Bench decided in the case mentioned that where the justices are equally decided on the question of the truth, sufficiency and validity of an objection to the granting of a licence lodged under the third section of the Licensing Act of 1883, no adjudication can take place. Whether the same result would follow in any other case will depend upon the wording of the statute on which the preceedings are grounded.

MR. T. D. GIBSON, R.M.—ALLEGATIONS OF PARTIALITY.

MR. O'DOHERTY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether representations have been received by the Irish Government from the Roman Catholic priests and people of Portadown requesting the removal of Mr. T. D. Gibson, R.M., from that district, as the Roman Catholics, owing to his decisions in party cases at Portadown petty sessions, had lost all confidence in his impartiality; and whether the Government will have him removed to some other district and appoint another resident magistrate in that district.

MR. WYNDHAM: Representations have been received by the Irish Government requesting the removal from Portadown of Mr. Gibson, the resident magistrate stationed there. These representations have received my own personal attention, and I am satisfied that the imputations of partiality brought against Mr. Gibson are not borne out by the facts. Both he and the District Inspector of Constabulary, against whom, I may mention, complaints have also been freely made, have a difficult and trying duty to discharge at times in Portadown, the great bulk of the population of which is Protestant, and I have no reason to believe that either of these officers has discharged his duty otherwise than in an impartial manner. It is not the intention of the Government to remove Mr. Gibson from Portadown.

Mr. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): Did you not get this information from the police?

Mr. WYNDHAM: No, Sir; I have personally gone very carefully into the whole question.

BANKRUPTCY (IRELAND) RETURN.

Mr. FIELD (Dublin, S. Patrick's): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state if the Return moved for and allowed on the 16th day of last July respecting Bankruptcy, Ireland, has been prepared; and, if not, when it may be expected.

Mr. WYNDHAM: The Return in question was laid on the Table on the 6th December last. If the hon. Member has not obtained a printing order in the usual way he should now do so.

IRISH BUTTER—EXCESSIVE WATER.

Mr. O'MARA (Kilkenny, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Department of Agriculture is aware that prosecutions have been taken by local authorities in the north of England against alleged excessive water in Irish butter; and whether, in view of the fact that no standard has yet been legally established to define the percentage of water in butter, the Department will take steps to protect the interests of Irish agriculturists.

Mr. WYNDHAM: The Department is aware that prosecutions under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts have been instituted by the local authorities in the north of England for alleged excess of water in Irish butter. The question of the desirability of fixing a legal standard, or standards, as to the percentage of water in butter, is engaging attention, and the Department is in communication with the Board of Agriculture in Great Britain on the subject.

Mr. O'MARA: Will the right hon. Gentleman answer the last part of my question?

Mr. WYNDHAM: I have done so. I have said the Department is in communication with the Board of Agriculture on the subject.

Mr. O'MARA: Will steps be taken to prevent prosecutions?

Mr. WYNDHAM: The percentage of water admissible appears to be a matter of doubt, and the Departments responsible for protecting the interests of agriculture are in consultation with a view to arriving at a satisfactory conclusion. No more can be said at present.

Mr. O'MARA: But——

*Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order! The question has been fully answered.

PROPOSED POLICE BARRACK AT EDENDERRY.

Mr. O'DOHERTY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if representations have been made to the Irish Government or the constabulary authorities by the Roman Catholic priests and people of Portadown, county Armagh, requesting them to establish a police barrack at Edenderry, Portadown being an Orange quarter in the town where repeated attacks have been made upon Roman Catholics passing through that district; and will he explain why the promise of the county inspector of police for the county of Armagh to have a barrack established in that district has up to the present not been carried out; and if the Government will establish a barrack at Edenderry in the immediate future.

Mr. WYNDHAM: Representations have been made to Government in favour of the establishment of a police barrack at Edenderry, Portadown. There is no suitable house in the locality at present available for the purpose. The station will be formed as soon as practicable.

Mr. O'DOHERTY: Is it not a fact that no difficulty is experienced when a site is wanted for a police hut in county Donegal?

*Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order!

COUNTY WICKLOW MAGISTRACY.

Mr. JAMES O'CONNOR: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state how many Roman Catholics and how many Protestants there are in the county of Wicklow, how many Roman Catholic magistrates and how many Protestant magistrates in the county; also the number of Roman Catholic and Protestant magistrates appointed for the county Wicklow since August, 1895.

MR. WYNDHAM: According to the Census Returns of 1891 there were at that time 49,238 Roman Catholics and 12,644 Protestants of various denominations in the county Wicklow. The number of magistrates in the county is 134, of whom 108 are Protestants, twenty-four are Roman Catholics, and there are two whose religions are not known. Twenty-three Protestant magistrates, four Roman Catholic, and two whose religions are unknown have been appointed since August, 1895.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR: Has the right hon. Gentlemen included in the list the justices who are ex-officio magistrates by reason of their being chairmen of local councils?

MR. WYNDHAM: I must ask for notice of that.

SECURITIES FOR GOOD BEHAVIOUR—RICE v. HALPIN.

MR. FLYNN: I beg to ask Mr. Attorney General for Ireland whether his attention has been called to the judgment in the King's Bench Division on 26th instant in the appeal case of District Inspector Rice, R.I.C., *v.* Halpin, confirming the decision but giving no costs. Is he aware that Judge Gibson characterised the power of magistrates in respect to cases in which they can impose upon defendants the obligation of giving security to be of good behaviour as unjust; and whether in view of the Lord Chief Justice's opinion that the law should be altered so as to conform to the law of England as altered by the Summary Jurisdiction Act, 1879, the Irish Law Officers of the Crown will take the necessary legislative steps for such alteration.

MR. ATKINSON: I have not as yet been able to obtain an authentic copy of the judgment of the Court, but from the daily press it would appear that the remarks of both the learned judges were applied to the inability of persons required to give securities to keep the peace and be of good behaviour in Ireland to give evidence before the magistrates on their own behalf as they are enabled to do in England under the 25th section of the Summary Jurisdiction Act of 1879. I would undertake to introduce a short Bill forthwith to assimilate the law in the two countries in this respect if hon. Members from Ireland would give an assurance that they would treat it as an unopposed measure.

BUTTEVANT NATIONAL SCHOOL TEACHER'S SALARY.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL (Kerry, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state on what grounds have the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland paid William O'Callaghan, of Churchtown National School, Buttevant, on the scale of £64 per annum, while his predecessor's salary was £127 per annum; and whether, if this provisional salary is increased at the final fixing of teachers' salaries, the difference will be refunded this teacher.

MR. WYNDHAM: Mr. William O'Callaghan was assistant teacher in Churchtown Male National School up to the 31st March, 1900. He was promoted to the rank of principal teacher on the 1st April, 1900, and in accordance with the rules sanctioned by the Treasury last year he was granted provisionally as his initial income as principal his former income as assistant—namely, £64. The amount of income of his predecessor was £129 per annum, and was based on his average income for the preceding three years. This income was personal to the predecessor of Mr. O'Callaghan. In all cases in which initial incomes are fixed, on final revision, at rates higher than those at which they were provisionally fixed, the difference will be paid from the 1st April, 1900.

IRISH EDUCATION GRANT.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the money known as the balance of residual grant, which teachers in Irish national schools get before 1st April each year, is meant for the financial year ended 31st March or for the year ended 31st December.

MR. WYNDHAM: The year meant is the financial year.

LIMERICK LUNATIC ASYLUM.

MR. LUNDON (Limerick, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the sum of £1,596 6s. 7d. due for the maintenance of patients in the Limerick Lunatic

Asylum from the 1st of January, 1899, to the 31st March, 1899, and certified by the Local Government Auditor as due in respect of capitation grant for pauper lunatics maintained in the asylum for the period stated, will ultimately have to be paid out of the rates if the Treasury do not pay it; and, if so, seeing that these patients who are entitled to rate-in-aid will be entirely supported out of the local rates during the period stated, and that a similar state of things exists with regard to other lunatic asylums in Ireland entitled to this rate-in-aid, whether he will take steps for the payment of this capitation grant.

MR. WYNDHAM: The question of the payment of the grant in aid of the maintenance of pauper lunatics for the period mentioned has formed the subject of correspondence between the Irish Government and the committee of management of the Limerick Asylum. I am afraid I cannot add to the views of Government already expressed.

MR. LUNDON: Will the right hon. Gentleman take any measures to have this money paid?

MR. WYNDHAM: The hon. Member misunderstands. The grant is always calculated on the figures of the preceding year. What has happened is this. The financial year, which ends in March, has been substituted for the calendar year, which ends in December, and the first quarter of 1900 takes the place of the first quarter of 1899. The figures of 1900 are more favourable, and the asylum has therefore gained by the change.

MR. CULLINAN (Tipperary, S.): Is there not a great deal of dissatisfaction among the Asylum Boards generally on this matter, and have not financial experts——

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member is now entering on a debate.

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL APPEAL.

MR. FLYNN: I beg to ask Mr. Attorney General for Ireland whether he will lay upon the Table of the House a copy of the judgments delivered in the Court of Appeal, on Monday last, in the case of the Wexford County Council against the Local Government Board.

MR. ATKINSON: Yes, this will be done.

MR. FLYNN: Will it be available for distribution among the Irish Members?

MR. ATKINSON: After it has been laid on the Table of the House.

CLONES RAILWAY STATION.

MR. DALY (Monaghan, S.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is aware that a man was killed recently at Clones railway station, county Monaghan, owing to the state of the island platform there, and whether he can state what course he intends to take to get this island platform improved, and thereby avert further loss of life.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I have made inquiry as to this case, and am informed that the unfortunate man's death did not occur owing to the state of the island platform. The Board are, however, in communication with the railway company as to the platform and the level-crossing at this station.

MR. DALY: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that his predecessor promised to look into this matter, and that nothing has since been done?

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order!

IRISH LIGHTS BOARD.

MR. FIELD: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that several harbour boards, including Dublin and Belfast, have frequently and publicly expressed their disapproval of the constitution and the working of the Irish Lights Commission; and whether, in view of those facts, the Government will consider the advisability of re-forming and reconstituting the Irish Lights Board.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: Yes, Sir; such representations have from time to time been made. As I have already informed the hon. Member, His Majesty's Government do not, as at present advised, contemplate the introduction of a Bill dealing with the constitution of the Irish Lights Board.

MR. FIELD: In view of the reply of the right hon. Gentleman, may I ask why legislation is delayed when everyone interested is anxious that the Board should be re-formed?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I cannot do that in answer to a question.

RAMELTON COASTGUARD STATION.

MR. M'FADDEN: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether his attention has been directed to the proposed abolition of the coastguard station at Ramelton, county Donegal; whether he is aware that the said station has been in existence for over 100 years; that in former times a trade in contraband goods carried on through the port at Ramelton necessitated the keeping of a staff of seven officers at the station; and that a considerable trade is still carried on between Ramelton and foreign and home ports; and can he explain the reasons of the proposed abolition of the station.

MR. PRETYMAN: It is proposed to abolish this station in consequence of a report from the Board of Customs that its retention is no longer necessary from a revenue point of view, and the Admiralty do not consider it necessary to maintain it for other purposes.

POSTAL ARRANGEMENT AT EYERIES, CO. CORK.

MR. GILHOOLY: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether a memorial from the priests and people of Eyeries, county Cork, has been forwarded to the Secretary, General Post Office, Dublin, showing the necessity that exists for a Sunday service to Eyeries; whether a resolution from the District Council, Castletown Bere, also has been sent; and whether, in view of the importance of Eyeries as a fishing station, he will see that this want is supplied.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: A memorial was received from the residents of Eyeries last year asking for a Sunday postal service, and the District Council of Castletown Bere forwarded a resolution supporting the request. From the inquiry which was made it was found that the cost of the service in the district already greatly exceeded the revenue from the correspondence, so that the expense of providing a Sunday post was not warranted. The Postmaster General regrets that in the circumstances he would not be justified in complying with the request of the inhabitants.

MR. GILHOOLY: Is the hon. Gentleman aware that this is a very important fishing station which is attended by a number of American buyers? The cost would only be small.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I understand that it is a very important fishing station, but the postal business connected with the fishery is very small and, if I remember rightly, does not pay half the present cost of the service.

MR. GILHOOLY: But what about the public convenience?

SCHULL LETTER CARRIER'S WAGES.

MR. GILHOOLY: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether his attention has been called to the rate of wage given to the letter carrier in the town of Schull, county Cork, and whether he will have it increased.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The attention of the Postmaster General had not been called to the rate of wage given to the letter carrier at Schull, county Cork. According to the official records, the wages paid are in accordance with the usual scale for the duty performed, which occupies less than an hour and a half daily; but inquiry is being made into the matter.

BALLINACOR POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS.

MR. M'FADDEN: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, if he will explain why the rural messenger between Crossroads branch post office, Killygordon, county Donegal, and the townland of Sallywood, only delivers to a few houses in the townland of Ballinacor the letters in the morning delivery, and then proceeds to serve the townlands of Portobello, Kilcaddon, and Carrickshandrum; and, after serving these townlands, returns and serves the remaining portion of the townland of Ballinacor about ten o'clock in the morning; is he aware that the said townland of Ballinacor is only a few yards from the branch office at Crossroads, and is the first townland the messenger enters in the morning; and, seeing that representations have been made to the Secretary of the Post Office at Dublin complaining of the present arrangements for delivery of letters in the townland of Ballinacor, and that school teachers have complained that they do not get delivery of their letters before ten o'clock, and are thus precluded from making returns by the next post to the Offices of National Education, and that the present postal arrangements in the district impose unnecessary labour on the messenger, whether directions could be given to him to proceed on his outward journey along the county road through the centre of the townland of Ballinacor.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The route followed by the postman from the Crossroads post office to Sallywood has been the subject of careful consideration, and the present arrangement, by which a large majority of the letters are delivered on the outward journey, is undoubtedly the best for the general convenience of the public. The postman is not overworked, and the circumstances do not justify an alteration of the post.

ENNISCORTHY POST OFFICE.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE (Wexford, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, if he can state when the building of the new post office at Enniscorthy will be commenced.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The Board of Public Works report that they hope to be able to begin the new post office building at Enniscorthy in May next.

IRISH LAND PURCHASE BILL.

MR. DALY: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he can state when the Irish Land Purchase Bill will be introduced.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I am afraid I can give no information to the hon. Gentleman.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE—DURATION OF DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS.

MR. STUART-WORTLEY (Sheffield, Hallam): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury upon how many occasions in the fourteen years 1887 to 1900 has the debate on the Address been finished to admit of the second Wednesday in the session being open for private Members' Bills.

MR. CALDWELL (Lanarkshire, Mid): I rise to order. I wish to know if this is not a question dealing with facts which appear on the journals of the House, and which are as accessible to the hon. Member who asks the question as to the Leader of the House? I wish to know, too, in regard to the insinuation it is meant to convey, whether——

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member is now commenting on the motives of the hon. Gentleman who asks the question. As to his point of order, I may say that if this question had been brought to my notice I think I should have said that the Clerk was justified in refusing it, on the ground that it asks for information not in the special possession of Ministers, and which can be obtained out of *Hansard* by the hon. Member himself.

SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT: Are not questions of this kind constantly asked in order to draw in an easy way public attention to an important subject?

*MR. SPEAKER: I quite admit that an effort is frequently made to make a speech by means of a question, but that is irregular.

MR. STUART-WORTLEY (Sheffield, Hallam): Is it not true that resistance to this form of question—which is frequently used—generally comes from those who anticipate that the answer will be inconvenient to them?

[No answer was returned, and the original question was not replied to.]

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

CHARITABLE AGENCIES FOR THE RELIEF OF WIDOWS AND ORPHANS OF SOLDIERS AND SAILORS.

That they concur with the Commons in their Resolution:—"That it is expedient that a Joint Committee of Lords and Commons be appointed to consider the various Charitable Agencies now in operation, and the funds available for relieving Widows and Orphans of Soldiers and Sailors, with a view to ensuring that the funds subscribed by local and private benevolence are applied to the best advantage in supplementing a scheme of Government Pensions for Widows and Orphans of Soldiers and Sailors who have lost their lives in war;" as desired by this House.

NEW BILLS.

BOROUGH FUNDS ACT (1872) AMENDMENT (LONDON.)

Bill to amend the Borough Funds Act, 1872, ordered to be brought in by Captain Jessel, Sir Charles Dilke, Sir George Fardell, Mr. Sydney Buxton, Mr. Boulnois, Mr. Richards, and Mr. Whitmore.

BOROUGH FUNDS ACT (1872) AMENDMENT (LONDON) BILL.

"To amend the Borough Funds Act, 1872," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Wednesday, 24th April and to be printed. [Bill 74.]

LIQUOR TRAFFIC LOCAL VETO (SCOTLAND).

Bill to give the ratepayers a direct veto on the Liquor Traffic in their respective areas in Scotland, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Hunter Craig, Mr. Colville, Mr. Cameron Corbett, Mr. Black, Sir William Dunn, Mr. Eugene Wason, Mr. Wallace, Mr. John D. Hope, and Dr. Farquharson.

LIQUOR TRAFFIC LOCAL VETO (SCOTLAND) BILL.

"To give the ratepayers a direct veto on the Liquor Traffic in their respective areas in Scotland," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Wednesday, 19th June, and to be printed. [Bill 75.]

CHEAP TRAINS.

Bill to amend the Law relating to Cheap Trains for the working classes, ordered to be brought in by Captain Norton, Mr. Buxton, Sir Albert Rollit, Sir Frederick Dixon-Hartland, Mr. John Burns, Mr. Scott, Mr. John Wilson (Durham), and Dr. Macnamara.

CHEAP TRAINS BILL.

"To amend the Law relating to Cheap Trains for working classes," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 76.]

LIQUOR TRAFFIC LOCAL VETO.

Bill to enable localities by a direct Veto to prevent the issue of licences for the sale of intoxicating liquors, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Caine, Mr. Henry Joseph Wilson, Mr. Burt, Mr. Whittaker, and Mr. Channing.

LIQUOR TRAFFIC LOCAL VETO BILL.

"To enable localities by a direct Veto to prevent the issue of licences for the sale of intoxicating liquors," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Wednesday, 19th June, and to be printed. [Bill 77.]

LICENSING ACTS AMENDMENT (SCOTLAND).

Bill to amend the Law with respect to the Licensing Authorities in Police Burghs in Scotland, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Colville, Sir John Leng, Mr. Hunter Craig, Mr. Black, Mr. Caldwell, Mr. Parker Smith, and Mr. John D. Hope.

LICENSING ACTS AMENDMENT (SCOTLAND) BILL.

"To amend the Law with respect to the Licensing Authorities in Police Burghs in Scotland," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Wednesday next, and to be printed. [Bill 78.]

TRADE MARKS.

Bill to consolidate and amend the Law relating to Trade Marks, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Fletcher, Mr. Alban Gibbs, Mr. Butcher, Mr. Kimber, Mr. Kearley, Mr. M'Kenna, and Lord Henry Bentinck.

TRADE MARKS BILL.

"To consolidate and amend the Law relating to Trade Marks," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Thursday, 14th March, and to be printed. [Bill 79.]

HOSPITALS (EXEMPTION FROM RATES).

Bill providing for the exemption of Hospitals from local Rates, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Lawson Walton, Dr. Farquharson, Mr. Warr, and Mr. T. P. O'Connor.

HOSPITALS (EXEMPTION FROM RATES) BILL.

"Providing for the exemption of Hospitals from Local Rates," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Wednesday next, and to be printed. [Bill 80.]

SUPPLY.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

CIVIL SERVICE (SUPPLEMENTARY) ESTIMATES, 1900-1901.

CLASS I.

I. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £35,200, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, in respect of sundry public buildings in Great Britain, not provided for on other Votes."

*SIR WALTER FOSTER (Derbyshire, Ilkeston) said he thought that the right hon. Gentleman who was speaking the preceding evening when the House adjourned had given a somewhat remarkable explanation in dealing with the question of the Census buildings. It would be recollected that he declared the buildings had been enlarged in consequence of the increased staff which had been necessitated by the alterations made in the form of the Census Returns. Now, he did not think that that adequately explained the additional Vote which was being asked for. The alterations made in the form of the census were comparatively small, and yet the Committee was asked for a supplementary sum of £2,100 in addition to the £4,000 voted last year. The Supplementary Estimate represented, in fact, over half of the original Estimate. The increase could not be accounted for by the removal of the very inconvenient buildings in Charles Street, Whitehall, which were used when the last census was taken. Undoubtedly those buildings were not suited to the purposes to which they were applied, and he was very sorry indeed that the money now voted was not to be used for providing proper accommodation for the clerks. The buildings were made of galvanised iron lined with wood and other materials, and bearing in mind that much of the work had to be done at a period of the year when great heat prevailed, it was clear that those engaged upon it had to labour under conditions injurious to their health and detrimental to the efficiency of their work. Now, these old buildings were simply to be removed from one site to another, and a further building of the same type was to be provided for the fifty additional female clerks who were to be employed in the compilation of the census. In this matter he did not think they got good value for their money, and, in view of the enormous expenditure to which this country was committed for war purposes, he did feel that it was the duty of every Member to watch the Estimates very closely in order to see that at any rate the money was not wasted. Would it not have been better for the right hon. Gentleman, in framing the Estimate, to have considered whether the money could not have been spent more usefully, either in hiring a better building, or by making a beginning by way of providing permanent offices for census purposes? It seemed to him a very dangerous piece of economy to use buildings of that kind for the storage of documentary evidence in view of the danger of destruction by fire. A wooden house covered with galvanised iron was certainly not a suitable place in which to keep public documents collected at the cost of such enormous expenditure and trouble. It seemed to him that they were by no means getting value for their money, for the only return they were apparently to have for the additional estimate of £2,100 was the removal of three or four iron buildings from one place to another and the provision of an additional one. He really could not understand how so much money could be spent on the work, and he was driven to the conclusion that this particular Estimate afforded one more illustration of the miscalculations of which the framers of the various estimates had been guilty. He thought they were entitled to some explanation in regard to that, as well as in respect of the large Supplementary Vote asked for in connection with Hertford House and the Imperial Institute. The case of the Imperial Institute and the London University was an equally remarkable instance. In the last Estimates £8,770 were voted for the adaptation of the buildings for use by the London University, and now no less than £9,960 additional were asked for. Surely £18,000 was a large amount for adapting the buildings for the use of the university. Even if preparations were being made for a teaching university, the original estimate ought at any rate to have been much nearer the amount actually required. The London University would also come up under another Vote in regard to the preparation of a laboratory which was necessary for carrying on the examining purposes of the university. Then there was an additional Vote of £3,000 for the Patent Office. All these matters indicated a laxity of circulation which ought not to exist in public affairs. Any private firm which carried on its business under such conditions would soon be in a condition of bankruptcy. In these times when, considering the burden the country was likely to have to bear in the near future, economy ought to be the great consideration in connection with public expenditure, he felt bound to call the attention of the Committee to these points.

*SIR ALBERT ROLLIT (Islington, S.) remarked that, with regard to the Imperial Institute, many of the acts which had had to be done were not discovered to be necessary until the University moved into the buildings. One of the chief objects of the reorganisation had been to make the University a teaching body, and for that purpose many rooms, though perhaps not exactly class-rooms at present, were required for the examination of both the internal and external students and for the enlarged work contemplated on the part of the University. But however much the Vote had been, there were still one or two things urgently required to be done. The sanitary arrangements were not at all satisfactory, and in the case of the large hall for examinations the ventilation was so bad as to be a positive disadvantage to the students who were examined. Not only the University, but also the Civil Service candidates were affected by this, as they were examined in the same building, and for such occasions the conditions ought to be made as suitable as possible, as the tenure of this hall by the University had been an express condition of the removal to South Kensington, which had been very reluctantly consented to by himself and other members of the Senate. There was also a question of fees and payments to examiners at present between the Senate and the Treasury, and if the latter took the fees to the end of the financial year, it ought to bear all expenses to the same date, in order that the University might start clear with the not too liberal grant which was suggested. The attempt to get back the large hall primarily for the Civil Service, as a condition of the proposed new grant, would be very strongly resisted by the Senate. The chemical laboratory was also badly ventilated, and this should be attended to without delay.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE (Wexford, N.) pointed out, as a matter in which many Members were interested, that no provision was made in the census arrangements for a religious census. He did not agree with the complaint with regard to the money spent in arrangements for the housing of the Wallace collection. It was not easy to spend too much money on housing works of art. He congratulated the British public on having obtained this magnificent collection, but regretted that some of the pictures were not given to Ireland, seeing that very large estates, known as the Wallace Estates, used to be held in Ireland, from the rental of which estates, he imagined, a good deal of the money which purchased these pictures was provided. With regard to the adaptation of the Imperial Institute for the London University, he quite agreed that these buildings should be made convenient and comfortable for the people who used them. The Vote, however, would not excite much sympathy on the Irish benches, seeing that it provided nearly £10,000 practically as an endowment of a university in England, where there were so many universities, whereas a university for Irish Catholics was denied. If for no other reason he would challenge a division on this Vote as a protest against the continued neglect of Ireland in the matter of university education. As to the Supplementary Vote for the introduction and extension of electric lighting in public buildings in England, he hoped it would lead to a similar introduction in the public buildings of Ireland.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON (Tower Hamlets, Poplar) said that the question particularly raised was that there were a number of Supplementary Votes, the large majority of which ought not to appear as Supplementary Estimates at all, but should have been foreseen and included in the original Estimates. That was the point the right hon. Gentleman the First Commissioner endeavoured to meet on the previous evening, but his explanations were not altogether satisfactory. Several items were disposed of on the ground that they were advantageous, but that was not the ground at all on which they were objected to. In reply to requests for information the right hon. Gentleman said that he could give information with regard to new items, but not with regard to old.

THE FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS (Mr. AKERS DOUGLAS, Kent, St. Augustine's) explained that the complaint was that no particulars were given on the paper in regard to anything except items appearing under subhead "A," to which he replied that it had always been the practice, not only in Supplemental Estimates but also in the original Estimates, to give the new works under subhead "A" in full, while the others were in general terms.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON was sorry he misunderstood the right hon. Gentleman. The rule was all very well when there were very few Supplementary Estimates or none at all, but there were now an unprecedented number, and it was only right and just that the information which had been given across the table should have been printed on the Estimates themselves. The reply on some of the points to which the previous evening he (the speaker) directed attention was inadequate and unsatisfactory. The expenditure for extensions of the War Office, being due to the pressure of the war, was properly made the subject of a Supplementary Estimate, because in the ordinary way it could not be foreseen, especially by the present Government. The argument with regard to the Census buildings was that since the original estimate was voted it had been determined to obtain further information in the census, involving a certain amount of additional expenditure. What were the alterations which would increase the cost by no less than one-third of the original sum? There was a great deal of force in the contention that with such large expenditure there should be something in the nature of a permanent building rather than a tin house, which was not only useless in the future, but dangerous to health. As to the £3,000 extra for the Patent Office extension, it was said that that was to provide library accommodation. If there was one thing more than another which might have been anticipated, or in which there was no possible urgency for a few months, surely it was the provision of library accommodation for the Patent Office. This was another illustration of the absolute laxity prevailing in regard to the Estimates, and of the manner in which, very largely in consequence of their strength in the House, the Government were able and willing to allow things to be done, but in which, if their majority was smaller, they would never dare to present them to the House. There was another item for the erection of a new Die and Medal Department. Was that a matter of urgent necessity? The right hon. Gentleman did not argue that point, and therefore he did not see that he had any right to put it in the form of a Supplementary Estimate. He said nothing in regard to the very large expenditure upon electric lighting, and that was a matter which ought to be provided in the original Estimate, and which might have stood over for the new Estimates. The right hon. Gentleman did not say anything in regard to the general proposition which was discussed last night as to why these Supplementary Estimates should be of such an enormous amount, covering a larger number of Votes—twenty-nine, with seventy-six sub-divisions—than any other previous Supplementary Estimates. He thought they were entitled to have some information from the Government why it was that there had been this laxity in regard to the Estimates, and if there had been a long discussion in regard to these different items the fault was entirely with the Government themselves. If this Supplementary Estimate had been introduced with proper information it would have been passed last night. They had to drag their information from the right hon. Gentleman across the floor of the House, and that was the reason why this prolonged discussion had taken place, and he hoped it would continue until they got fuller information in regard to those matters.

MR. AKERS DOUGLAS: With regard to the general charge made by the hon. Member who has just sat down, regarding the want of information, that is a matter which does not devolve upon me. I am not responsible for the preparation of the Supplementary Estimates as a whole, but I am responsible for those items which come more particularly under my management.

As to the question raised by the hon. Member opposite in regard to the Census buildings, I gave an explanation last night which I am sorry he did not think entirely satisfactory. I pointed out that this excess was caused because when in 1899–90 this Estimate for the Census buildings was prepared, it was thought that the buildings which had been sufficient for the staff which conducted the last census would have been sufficient upon the present occasion. Since that amount was estimated the temporary buildings had been moved, and it was found that additional accommodation was required, especially for the female staff. In addition to that, in order to meet many of the objections which the hon. Member so justly pointed out with regard to the nature of the buildings, and at the request of the Registrar General, we spent money on the extra ventilation of these buildings, and fitting them with the electric light, which makes them much healthier to work in. We have, therefore, done something to meet the requirements of the people who work in those buildings, and in regard to the electric light it was not foreseen that an installation of this light would be required.

With regard to providing permanent buildings for the census, that is a very much larger question, and it is one on which I do not think the hon. Member will find I am at all averse to placing myself in line with him. That, however, is a question which we need not discuss at any length to-day, for the hon. Member has found an answer to it himself on the present occasion, for he has stated that we are spending too much money already. In the near future I should be glad to see some permanent buildings provided for the census.

The hon. Gentleman asked me a question with regard to the adaptation of Hertford House for the Wallace collection. This expenditure was incurred in order to hasten on the work, and I could not possibly have foreseen this in the preparation of the Estimate. Neither my Department nor myself are responsible for the administration of Hertford House, for we have only to deal with the structural alterations of the building. The extra work at Hertford House was asked for by the trustees who administer that building in so excellent a manner, but they are not under my jurisdiction. A request was made for this further work to be proceeded with at once in order that no delay might take place, and that the public should have the earliest opportunity of visiting the collection. The hon. Member for North Wexford complained that none of these pictures had been sent to Ireland, but perhaps he will remember that the bequest provides that the collection must be kept in London, and therefore it is not within the power of the Government to accede to the hon. Member's request.

Some remarks have been made in regard to the necessity of a Patent Office Library, and it is said that that charge might have been anticipated. I made an answer to that point last night. The additional sum spent to complete the buildings was incurred because we were specially desirous of hastening on this work in order to save, as far as possible, the £700 a year which is the rent being paid for a temporary home for the library while these alterations were going on. By this expenditure of £3,000 we shall be able to make the library complete, and transfer the books from the temporary home, thus relieving the country of an expenditure of some £700 a year for three years. Therefore I think it was well worth while incurring this expenditure to hurry the adaptation of the building, in order to avoid the necessity of taking on another lease for three years of this temporary home at a rental of £700 per annum.

With regard to the alterations and arrangements at Cleveland House. I think the hon. Member expressed himself satisfied with the explanation I have already given. This expenditure was necessary in consequence of the increase of the War Office staff, and this could not possibly have been foreseen in December, when the Estimates were prepared. The same argument will also apply to the introduction and the extension of the electric light at Cleveland House.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick's) asked if the First Commissioner of Works would give them an explanation of the "Imperial Institute, London University," item. He thought that required some explanation.

MR. AKERS DOUGLAS: The reason for this excess on the Imperial Institute has really been given by my hon. friend below me. It is really impossible in the transfer of a great institution like the London University into fresh quarters to foresee what would be required by that institution. The chief items of expenditure have been for certain structural alterations with regard to a new entrance and providing other rooms that had to be found in substitution for the rooms which were taken over by the London University. In addition there has been some unforeseen expenditure with regard to the library, and I think the Committee will agree with me that in moving a very large library like this it is almost impossible to forecast what the cost will be. I am bound to say that a large amount of this expenditure has taken place in regard to the sanitary arrangements of the new home of the London University. I agree with him that not nearly enough sanitary requirements have been provided for; and the question of the health of those who use the building is a subject which will probably be discussed when we come to the Estimates on a future occasion. But in regard to the charge that there has been any want of foresight in the planning of the additions to these buildings, I may say that they were not designed by the Government expert, but by the very distinguished and worthy architect of the original Imperial Institute, Mr. Collcutt. It is not so easy for the Department to make any accurate estimate when they do not carry out the work themselves. Some of the requirements of the London University were not known to us until late last year. I do not blame the University officials, because until they were able to overhaul their books, maps, etc., they were not in a position to estimate exactly the expenditure of reinstating them. I think I have met, so far as I can, the inquiries that have been made in regard to this particular Vote.

*MR. TENNANT (Berwickshire) said that the right hon. Gentleman had not mentioned, although careful attention had been given to his remarks, anything in regard to the condition of the Census buildings. The right hon. Gentleman had stated that the House had demanded that certain alterations should be made in the form of the Census Returns, and that, therefore, additional clerks would be required. They must all rejoice that the right hon. Gentleman was going to make it a rule that the clerks would work under more sanitary conditions than at the last census. He wished that the First Commissioner of Works would give the Committee some information as to the particular alterations he intended to make.

MR. AKERS DOUGLAS said that this was a Building Vote, and he did not think that the work done by the clerks of the Registrar General could be discussed under it.

*MR. TENNANT said hon. Members were entitled to inquire whether additional rooms were required for the lady clerks, or whether additional rooms and clerks were required at all. That was his first point; but his next was that it seemed to him rather peculiar that under subhead F there should be an increase of £1,200 for the supply of water. Surely that was a matter that obviously ought to have been foreseen by any Government Department.

MR. AKERS DOUGLAS said that the additional expenditure was due to new boilers for the engines which forced the supply of water, and not for the supply of water in the ordinary course.

*MR. TENNANT: What about the clerks?

MR. AKERS DOUGLAS: I will find out, but that does not come within my Department.

MR. J. P. FARRELL (Longford, N.) said this Vote of £35,200 seemed a very large sum, and the different heads under which it was set out showed certainly a very extraordinary want of foresight on the part of the officials, whoever they were, who had made out the original Estimate. For New Works, Alterations, and Additions, the sum of £21,000 was the extra amount required. Of course, it might be necessary for architects to make variations on their plans from time to time, but it was an extraordinary thing that such a very large sum had not been contemplated in the original Estimate. It was most unfortunate if the Government desired to get the Votes through that they did not give any particulars whatever to the Committee. He quite appreciated the kindly and civil manner in which the right hon. the First Commissioner of Works had sought to meet every point raised, although he must say the right hon. Gentleman seemed rather disposed to ignore questions from the Irish benches, and to give a preference to complaints made above the gangway. Perhaps the right hon. Gentleman would be convinced in time that they on the Irish benches made their complaints *bona fide*, because he must know that every portion of the country was drawn upon to supply the money which was now being asked for, and that, therefore, the Irish representatives were as greatly interested in money matters as those from the other parts of the United Kingdom. It should not be forgotten that one-eleventh of the whole contributions to the Exchequer came from Ireland, and they had to complain that no sufficient ground whatever had been shown for the huge increase in expenditure, particularly at a time when they were every day adding to the enormous debt of the British Empire. Of course, under this Vote he was not allowed to refer to the increase of debt due to the war in South Africa, which was being piled up at the rate of two millions a week, but he would point out that the cost of home administration was also increasing to an alarming extent, and it was time that full details should be given before they allowed the Votes to pass through Committee. There was one particular in the Vote with which Irishmen had very grave cause of complaint. They were handing over the Imperial Institute to the London University, and were spending £9,960 for the purpose of converting it to university uses. There was not a single Vote which ought to be more objectionable to Irishmen than that one. The vast majority of the people of Ireland were Catholics, and had asked over and over again that provision might be made for the establishment of a Catholic University in Ireland. Not only had their appeals fallen on deaf ears, but they had been met with contempt and scorn. Here was a large public building in London which, he understood, had been erected, not by voluntary or public contribution, or by the taxpayers of Great Britain, but by the free gift of the people of India to commemorate the Queen's Jubilee in 1887. This large building was to be handed to the London University, and the taxpayers of Ireland were not only to be deprived of the Catholic University in Ireland, but to be called upon at the same time to pay their due proportion of the fitting up of the building for London University purposes. That was another illustration of the manner in which Irish claims were dealt with, and if on no other ground, he would resist the Vote. He trusted his friends on the Irish benches would seek to drive this point home more forcibly, for it was really a scandal that a Catholic University was not given to them in Ireland.

*THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Gentleman is now discussing a subject that he himself has admitted is out of order.

MR. J. P. FARRELL said there were other items on this Vote on which he wished for some information. £2,000 was asked on account of alterations to adapt Winchester House for the Intelligence Branch. He wanted to know what the intelligence was about. Was it in connection with the war in South Africa, or for what other purpose? On the whole, he must say the Government had drawn very largely on the credulity of Irish Members in asking them to agree to a Vote of £35,200 without giving them any details. There was a sum of £3,125 for the adaptation of Hertford House for the Wallace Collection. Not a solitary picture frame from that collection was to come to Ireland. He wondered if hon. Members knew that a very large portion of the estate of the late Sir Richard Wallace was situated in the north of Ireland. There was no doubt that some of the art treasures accumulated by Sir Richard Wallace had been purchased by the money which he derived from his estates in Ireland. Of course they had no right to insist on the Government breaking the terms of the bequest. He knew himself there were always plenty of legal difficulties to be raised about the simplest questions, but, at the same time, when they were asked to vote these large sums of money without any details, it was only fair that proper opportunities should be given them to call attention to the differential treatment, if he might so term it, which was accorded to London and to Ireland. Some of the replies given by the right hon. Gentleman were, in his opinion, most unsatisfactory; and on three several items which he had endeavoured to explain he had to admit that the headings and details were misleading. He complained that although the sum asked for showed an increase of nearly fifty per cent. in one of the items, on the original Estimate, the details and particulars given were of a very meagre character, and the accounts as presented to the Committee were not satisfactory, at all events so far as he was concerned. One to which he took particular exception was the item dealing with the alterations at Winchester House, in order to adapt it for the occupation of the Intelligence Branch. If it was intended to make this a sort of appanage of the War Office Department, he thought the Committee would be wrong to pass it, for of all things, that the War Office had hopelessly broken down was most patent to the country. He moved to reduce the Vote by the sum of £2,000.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £33,200, be granted for the said Service."—(*Mr. Farrell.*)

Sir BRAMPTON GURDON (Norfolk, N.) asked for information with

Mr. J. P. Farrell.

regard to the nature of the alterations said to be required in Winchester House. According to his experience of the public service, it was a common trick of new officials to find fault with their room, to say, for example, that it was too small, and to ask the Office of Works to knock two or three rooms into one. Then, after a time, another new official would come in and say the room was too large, and ask the Office of Works to put up the party walls again, and incur the whole expense of restoring the place to the same condition as before. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would show a stiff front to all such demands.

Mr. BOLAND (Kerry, S.) supported the reduction, as in his opinion it was only proper when the Government brought forward a Supplementary Estimate of this kind they should give full particulars of how the money was to be expended. It had been said it was impossible to put down a complete Estimate in this case, because it was drawn up originally in 1899; but if that were so, it was all the more important that complete details should be given now, as only those who had the opportunity of hearing the explanations were in a position to form a judgment. He thought it would be greatly to the advantage of Members of the Committee if full details were given of these Estimates.

Mr. O'DOHERTY (Donegal, N.) considered the explanation given by the right hon. Gentleman the First Commissioner of Works was one that could not be accepted by the Irish Members. Upon one item—"fuel, light, and household articles"—he would like to draw the attention of the right hon. Gentleman to the merits of compressed peat. That was a matter worth considering at a time when coal-owners were putting up the prices, and did not allow the workmen to participate in rooking the public. The right hon. Gentleman might try the use of peat as an experiment, at all events, and he would find that he would not only save the public funds, but would be the means of developing a very large industry in Ireland. With regard to the amount required for the erection of a new die and medal department at the Royal

Mint, he would suggest, if it was intended to build a new department for the striking of medals for those who had taken part in the war, that there should also be a tannery attached to it, as most of the officers at the war and the whole of the War Office officials required, not gold, nor silver, but leathern medals.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 144; Noes, 207. (Division List No. 27.)

AYES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Allan, William (Gateshead)
Allen, C. P. (Glouc., Stroud)
Ambrose, Robert
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Atherley Jones, L.
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Boyle, James
Brand, Hon. Arthur
Brigg, John
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Burke, E. Haviland-
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carew, James Laurence
Carvill, Patrick G. Hamilton
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cogan, Denis J.
Colville, John
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter
Crean, Eugene
Crombie, John William
Cullinan, J.
Daly, James
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Delany, William
Dewar, J. A. (Inverness-sh.)
Dillon, John
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank
Elibank, Master of
Emmott, Alfred
Evans, Samuel T.
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gilhooly, James
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hammond, John
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir William
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Sir Chas. Seale-
Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jordon, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Labouchere, Henry
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leng, Sir John
Levy, Maurice
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Fadden, Edward
M'Govern, T.
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
M'Laren, Charles Benjamin
Mooney, John J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipper'ry Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, William
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Perks, Robert William
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, Robert John
Rea, Russell
Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Robson, William Snowdon
Roche, John
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire)
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer, Rt Hn C R (Northants)
Stevenson, Francis S.
Sullivan, Donal
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, F. Freeman-(Hastings
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Tully, Jasper
Wallace, Robert
Walton, John Lawson (Leeds, S.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wodehouse, Hn Armine (Essex
Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir Thomas Esmonde and Captain Donelan.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, Augustus Hy. Eden
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arrol, Sir William
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Austin, Sir John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W. (Leeds
Banbury, Frederick George
Barry, Sir Francis T. (Windsor)
Bartley, George C. T.
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H (Bristol
Beckett, Ernest William
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Arthur
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex
Bowles, T. Gibson (King's Lynn

Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Brown, AlexanderH.(Shropsh.
Bullard, Sir Harry
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Caine, William Sproston
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish,V. C. W.(Derbysh.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain,Rt. Hn.J.(Birm.
Chamberlain,J.Austen(Worc'r
Chamberlayne,T.(S'thampton
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H.A.E.
Coddington, Sir William
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb,SirJohnCharlesReady
Colston, Chas. Edw.H. Athole
Cook, Frederick Lucas
Corbett,A. Cameron(Glasgow)
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Cranborne, Viscount
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Dewar, TR(T'rH'mlets,S.Geo.
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dimsdale,Sir Joseph Cockfield
Dixon-Hartland,SirF. Dixon
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, SirWilliamTheodore
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Dyke, Rt. Hn.SirWilliamHart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Elliot, Hon.A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, George Denison
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes,Hon. AilwynEdward
Fergusson,Rt.Hn.SirJ(Manc'r
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald,SirRobertPenrose.
Fitzroy,Hon. EdwardAlgernon
Flannery, Sir Fortesque
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Forster, Henry William
Foster, SirMichael(Lond. Uni.
Garfit, William
Godson,SirAugustusFred'rick
Gordon,Hn J.E.(Elgin&Nairn
Gorst, Rt. Hon.Sir JohnEldon
Goschen, Hon.GeorgeJoachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene,SirE.W. (Bury St. Ed.
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hain, Edward
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hamilton,Rt.HnLordG(Mid'x
Hamilton,Marqof(L'nd'nd'rry
Harris,F.Leverton (Tynem'th
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath,James(Staffords.,N.W.
Henderson, Alexander
Hermon-Hodge, Rbt. Trotter
Hope,J. F. (Shef'ld,Brightside
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Howard,Cap.J(Kent,Faversh.
Howard,J. (Midd.,Tottenham
Hozier, Hon. James Henry C.
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Knowles, Lees
Lawrence, William F.
Lawson, John Grant
Lecky, Rt. Hon. Wm.Edw.H.
Lee,Cap.A.H(Hants.,Fareh'm
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leighton, Stanley
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long,Rt.Hn.Walter(Bristol,S
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft
Lucas,ReginaldJ.(Portsmouth
Macartney, Rt. Hn. W. G. E.
Macdona, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Calmot, Col. J. (Antrim, E.
M'Killop, James (Stirlingsh.)
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Markham, Arthur Basil
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell,W.J.H.(Dumfriessh.
Mellor, Rt. Hon. John Wm.
Milton, Viscount
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
More, R. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morris, Hon. Martin H. F.
Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
Murray, Col. Wyndham(Bath)
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Penn, John
Percy, Earl
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis
Pretyman, Ernest George
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
Rasche, Major Frederic Carne
Reed, Sir E. James (Cardiff)
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Charles Bine
Rentoul, James Alexander
Renwick, George
Ridley, S. F. (Bethnal Green)
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Charles T.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Round, James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, John
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col. SamuelAlexander
Saunderson,Rt.Hn.Cl. Edw.J.
Seely,Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw,Stewart,M.H.(Renfrew)
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Smith,HC(North'mb Tyneside
Smith,JamesParker (Lanarks.
Spear, John Ward
Spencer,Ernest(W.Bromwich)
Stanley,HonArthur(Ormskirk
Stanley,EdwardJas.(Somerset
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stewart,SirMarkJ.M'Taggart
Stroyan, John
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Wm.Edw.Murray
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Wason,JohnCathcart(Orkney)
Webb, Colonel William Geo.
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wills, Sir Frederick
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd,Wm.H. (Yorks.)
Wodehouse,Rt.Hn.E.R.(Bath
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
Young,Commander(Berks,E.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

Original Question again proposed.

MR. GODDARD (Ipswich) said he thought they had some cause of complaint in regard to this Supplementary Estimate, inasmuch as there was a very large proportion of it which still remained absolutely without any explanation whatever. No doubt there were times when there were exigencies which caused the original Estimates to be exceeded, and they must pass Supplementary Estimates to make up the required amount. The practice had been growing to make these Supplementary Estimates for large sums of money, which could not be regarded as the result of a mistake in the original Estimate. The reason for this seemed to be a little difficult to understand. It either meant that there was great incompetency on the part of those who prepared the Estimates in submitting a smaller amount than was really required, or else it must mean that the Government were afraid to put in the original Estimate the full amount required for the various Departments, and hoped to smuggle through the extra amount in the Supplementary Estimates, which were not fully explained. That was very unsatisfactory indeed, and he thought it was the duty of the House of Commons to resist the attempts which were made to remove these Estimates from the fullest investigation. This item of £35,200 was no small amount. It was a large amount, and there was only £31,000 attempted to be explained. He admitted that the right hon. Gentleman had given some explanation which might justify the increased expenditure, but it did not seem that he was justified in putting it in a Supplementary Estimate. He thought that might have been brought up in a proper way. Was it right that the Committee should be asked to pass a large sum of money like this without a single word of explanation before them ? In regard to the sum of £14,200 he had before asked an explanation, but the right hon. Gentleman had not vouchsafed any. He noticed that in one case £5,500 was set down for rents, insurance, and tithe rent-charges. The Government must fully know what they had to pay, and the Committee ought to have an explanation why the amount was not included in the original Estimate. He had no doubt that the extra expenditures were absolutely correct, but the Committee had no knowledge of them, and it was possible, as he showed on the previous night, even in such a homely thing as furniture, to crowd in things which were not furniture at all, and which called forth comment from the Comptroller and Auditor General. It was part of their duty to try to prevent the forcing of Estimates through the House without getting a full and proper explanation of them. He moved that the Vote be reduced by £100.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £35,100, be granted for the said Service."—(*Mr. Goddard.*)

MR. FIELD supported the proposal to reduce the Vote. He believed the system which had now been adopted with regard to the Supplementary Estimates was altogether wrong. The Government objected to supplementary questions, but they certainly had no objection to Supplementary Estimates. The right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the House had obtained an Order objecting to supplementary questions being asked on foreign affairs, but the hon. Member thought they should also have an Order in regard to Supplementary Estimates. In this Vote there was an increase of no less than one-tenth of the whole amount. The total was £350,000 and the Supplementary Estimate was £35,000. He held that, if any business man conducted his affairs in the same way that the financial affairs of this Empire were conducted, he would simply be bankrupt in a very short time. Hon. Members got the Supplementary Estimates the day before they came to be considered. That was not a businesslike way of dealing with these matters. He would support the reduction of the Vote as a protest against a system which, in his opinion, was being abused not only by this Government, but by every Government which had been in power since he came into the House.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis) said he had again and again called attention to the practice of bringing enormous Supplementary Estimates before the Committee, and more than three years ago he was assured by the Chancellor of the Exchequer that they had seen the last of this mischievous system. He had drawn the attention of the Government not only to the inconvenience of the practice, but also to the absolute destruction of our system of national accounts which it involved. Supplementary Estimates ought to be jealously avoided when it was in any way possible. They ought to be jealously kept for occasions which could not possibly be foreseen when the original Estimates were made. When the practice of introducing Supplementary Estimates was seen to be growing year after year, it was calculated to produce the impression that there was a set purpose of interfering with the control of the House of Commons. He did not know who might be responsible for this method of false finance, but it was a system of falsifying the accounts, because when the Chancellor of the Exchequer produced his Budget and told the House he required a certain amount of money for the expenditure of the year, it was an outrage that he should come afterwards and ask for five or six millions more. He earnestly hoped the Government would give serious attention to this matter, and in future years refrain from calling upon the Committee to consider as Supplementary Estimates matters which really and properly belonged to the original Estimates.

MR. POWER (Waterford, E.) said that year after year it had been the practice of the Government to endeavour to take these Votes from the review of the Committee. First they came for Votes on Account, and then they brought in Supplementary Estimates. If the officials of the House knew that they could get a Supplementary Vote on this and that item they became very careless in the manner they framed their Estimates, and the Ministers in charge of the Votes, knowing that if they sat tight until twelve o'clock the discussion would close, were not nearly so careful as they used to be in regard to explanations. When the rules providing for the closure of Supply were first introduced, Mr. Courtney said that one of the certain results would be negligence on the part of Departments in making up their accounts, and, to a certain extent, negligence on the part of Ministers in charge of defending the Votes, and he predicted a large increase of Votes on Account and also of Supplementary Estimates. The same thing was predicted by the Irish Members, and events had justified the prediction.

*SIR EDGAR VINCENT (Exeter) desired to add his protest against the system of finance which led to these very large Supplementary Estimates. In looking through the details of the Vote under discussion he could not see any item which should not have been foreseen when the original Estimate was prepared, or which could not have been postponed until the Estimates of the current year; and those were the only grounds upon which the inclusion of any item with a Supplementary Vote could be justified. Taking the figures of the last ten years, he found that the amount of Supplementary Votes on the Civil Service Estimates was decidedly upon the increase. It was not a party question, and he hoped the Government would take a firm stand in future against the system, as it was greatly in the interests of financial government that it should be done.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.) said that, with regard to the general question of Supplementary Estimates, there seemed to be an impression in various parts of the Committee that they were a convenience to the Government. That certainly was not the case.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.) said the contention was that they were a convenience to the permanent officials.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN assured the Committee that it was the desire of the Government to limit Supplementary Estimates as strictly as possible. In recent years there had been, as the hon. Member for Exeter had pointed out, a tendency to increase the Supplementary Estimates, but it would be his duty, and it was the desire of the Government, to limit them as strictly as they could in future. The circumstances under which the Estimates were framed were well known to right hon. Gentlemen opposite; they were drawn up a long while beforehand, and it was impossible in all cases to foresee all the expenditure. With regard to the remark of the hon. Member for East Mayo, that the permanent officials preferred Supplementary Estimates to the ordinary Estimates of the year, he thought there was no foundation for such a suggestion. Many of the Votes under discussion were Votes which could not possibly have been introduced at an earlier time. In the circumstances of the present year there had been peculiar conditions, which had upset calculations made with as great an approach to accuracy as was possible at the time the original Estimates were framed. The Committee doubtless would recognise the exceptional circumstances of the year, and understand that the fact of there being so large a sum to be obtained by Supplementary Estimates was not an indication of any desire or intention on the part of the Government to increase Supplementary Estimates unnecessarily.

MR. LABOUCHERE (Northampton) thought the Amendment was moved as a general protest against the growing system of Supplementary Estimates. The objection was not to those matters which could not have been foreseen; there were no doubt such cases, but when the Supplementary Estimates kept increasing it was necessary to oppose every item that could not be shown to have been necessarily put in the form of a Supplementary Estimate. That was the only way in which the matter could be dealt with in a practical manner. The Financial Secretary had said that special care would be exercised in the future. Promises for "the future" were always being given. "The present" was now being dealt with, and if the Supplementary Estimates were reduced in the future it would be mainly due to the fact that they were opposed now. The real reason they had increased was that the Opposition had been very remiss in its duty. During the last Parliament Supplementary Estimates went up by leaps and bounds, because, instead of there being any real discussion upon them, the Opposition sat cowed and did not dare to do anything. They were going to adopt quite a different system in the present Parliament; they were going to fight the Government upon everything, because, although they were in a numerical minority at present, they represented the feelings of the country upon many questions in regard to finance, and they intended henceforth to do their duty. As no attempt at a case had been made for many of the present Supplementary Estimates, it was a very good opportunity to give the Government a hint of their intentions, which they were determined to carry out without fear of being accused of obstruction or anything of that sort.

MR. DILLON was glad that the Financial Secretary had admitted the justice of the complaint against these Supplementary Estimates, and promised that the Government would amend its ways in the years to come. But that promise had been given every year for the last seven or eight years, and instead of there being any sign of improvement things had got worse. The great increase in Supplementary Estimates, which was a sign of recklessness, carelessness, and indifference in dealing with public accounts, was but a symptom of a disease which was playing havoc with the public economy that the House of Commons was supposed to enforce. The reason these constant increases were brought forward was that the opinion had been growing on the permanent officials that the day had gone by when the Committee would find fault with any Estimate that was submitted. The recent statement of the First Lord of the Treasury, that it was the accepted practice of the House of Commons not to discuss any Estimate with a view to economy, was a direct invitation to every official to be indifferent in his accounts, and to have no fear of the House of Commons before his eyes, knowing perfectly well that if he made up a wrong Estimate he could put forward a Supplementary Estimate. The system betokened a fatal disease which was preying upon the whole of the spending departments of the country, and which would sooner or later cause an outbreak on the part of that most patient of all beings, the taxpayer of the United Kingdom. It was for these reasons the Opposition had taken up the position they had on that and the previous day, and that course of action had been amply justified. The Amendment might now very well be voted upon, in order that other important Votes could be discussed.

MR. MARTIN (Worcestershire, Droitwich) remarked that if Supplementary Estimates were to be done away with altogether the tendency would be for the original Estimates to be drawn up very loosely, and not at all so strictly as they should be. That was a danger which should be kept in view.

MR. GEORGE WHITELEY (Yorkshire, W.R., Pudsey) felt it necessary to join in the protest against the large

Supplementary Estimates the Committee were always called upon to meet at the end of the financial year, a large proportion of which might have been included in the original Estimates of the various Departments. The Minister in charge always said that it should not occur again, but year after year the same thing happened. It seemed to be entirely beyond the power of Ministers to treat these matters in a businesslike way. No private business could conduct its financial affairs in such a fashion. The continual growth of the expenditure of the country was a matter of the gravest concern. Year by year the Committee with a light heart voted largely increasing expenditure, the taxation of the country grew heavier, and millions were added to the burdens of the nation. These matters could not be attacked in the gross ; they must be considered in detail with a determination to lop off everything that was unnecessary. Ministers themselves ought to be grateful for the protest which had been made, because it would strengthen their hands in battling against the leading officials of their Departments, and in keeping down the Estimates. The House of Commons was gradually losing its grip over the expenditure of the country, and how the Chancellor of the Exchequer looked forward to his annual statement he did not know. He did not believe the Treasury would take the Committee to be serious in its protests until some Vote had been refused, and he ventured to hope the division would be successful in bringing the matter home to them.

MR. HEYWOOD JOHNSTONE (Sussex, Horsham) said there was no doubt the system of Supplementary Estimates was a very inconvenient one, and it was almost impossible for the House of Commons to keep a proper check on the expenditure of the country so long as the Committee were subject, after the Estimates had been more or less discussed, to demands for further large sums in the shape of Supplementary Estimates. At the same time, they could not do without Supplementary Estimates for unforeseen expenses. But a Public Accounts Committee sat during the session, and he would like to suggest that no Supplementary Estimate should be presented to the House until it had been before that Committee. If that Committee investigated the figures, and satisfied themselves that the amounts asked for were such as should properly be embodied in Supplementary Estimates, the House might proceed to vote on such matters with much more confidence than at present.

*MR. JOHN ELLIS (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe) thought it would be very unfortunate if this important matter was regarded from a party point of view. The suggestion of the hon. Member for the Horsham Division would not bear much examination from the constitutional standpoint. The Government must be held responsible for the proposals it placed before the House of Commons, and he should not be at all in favour of delegating that responsibility to any Committee.

MR. HEYWOOD JOHNSTONE explained that he did not for a moment suggest that the House should accept the Estimates as sent down from the Public Accounts Committee, but simply that it would save a great deal of time if it was known that they had been thoroughly examined upstairs.

*MR. JOHN ELLIS said that would not at all do away with the constitutional objection. The Government must be held responsible from beginning to end for the demands they put before the House, and the burdens they placed upon the taxpayers. The hon. Member would see upon consideration that his suggestion would be fatal to all fixing of responsibility. These Supplementary Estimates were against all financial security, but the practice of presenting them was undoubtedly growing. He welcomed the assurance of the Financial Secretary, but the hon. Member had not a long period of official experience behind him, and his assurance must therefore be taken for what it was worth. The spirit shown on that and the previous evening with regard to the Estimates had been too long absent from the debates, and he welcomed its return. Finance would dominate this session and this Parliament. For long, as was well known to anyone of Parliamentary experience, Ministers of the highest constitutional and financial reputations had uttered their protest against the methods involved in large Supplementary Estimates.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 149; Noes, 211. (Division List No. 28.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Allen, Charles P. (Glouc. Stroud
Ambrose, Robert
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Atherley-Jones, L.
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Boland, John
Boyle, James
Brand, Hon. Arthur G.
Brigg, John
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Burke, E. Haviland-
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caine, William Sproston
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carew, James Laurence
Carvill, Patrick Geo. Hamilton
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cogan, Denis J.
Colville, John
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter
Crean, Eugene
Crombie, John William
Cullinan, J.
Daly, James
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Delany, William
Dillon, John
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, John Edward
Emmott, Alfred
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans, Samuel T.
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. M. (Leith)
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gilhooly, James
Grant, Corrie
Haldane, Richard Burdon
Hammond, John
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
Hayter, Rt. Hn. Sir A. D.
Hemphill, Rt. Hn. Charles H.
Hope, John D. (Fife, West)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Labouchere, Henry
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leng, Sir John
Levy, Maurice
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr Mark A.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Fadden, Edward
M'Govern, T.
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
M'Laren, Charles Benjamin
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mooney, John J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N).
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, Kendal Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, William
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kerry, Jas. (Roscommon, N
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Perks, Robert William
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, Robert John
Rea, Russell
Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Reed, Sir Edw. James (Cardiff)
Robson, William Snowdon
Roche, John
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfarsh.)
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soares, Ernest J,
Spencer, Rt. Hn. C R (Northants
Stevenson, Francis S.
Sullivan, Donal
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, F. Freeman-(Hastings
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Tully, Jasper
Ure, Alexander
Wallace, Robert
Walton, John Lawson (Leeds, S.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wilson, Chas. Henry (Hull, W.)
Woodhouse, Sir J T (Huddersf'd
Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Goddard and Sir Brampton Gurdon.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arrol, Sir William
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Austin, Sir John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W (Leeds
Banbury, Frederick George
Barry, Sir Francis T. (Windsor)
Bartley, George C. T.
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H (Bristol)
Beckett, Ernest William
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Arthur
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex)
Bowles, T. Gibson (King's Lynn
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Brown, Alexander H. (Shropsh.
Bullard, Sir Harry

Burdett-Coutts, W.
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish,V.C.W(Derbyshire
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt.Hn.J.(Birm.
Chamberlain,J Austen(Worc'r
Chamberlayne,T.(S'thampton
Charrington, Spencer
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Cochrane, Hon, Thos. H. A.E.
Coddington, Sir William
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb,SirJohnCharlesReady
Colston, Chas. Edw. H.Athole
Corbett, A.Cameron(Glasgow)
Cox, Irwin E. Bainbridge
Cranborne, Viscount
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Cust, Henry C.
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Dewar,T.R.(T'rH'mlets,S.Geo.
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dickson-Poynder, Sir J. P.
Dilke, Rt Hon. Sir Charles
Dimsdale, Sir J. Cockfield
Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir Wm. Theodore
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Egerton. Hon. A. de Tatton
Elliot, Hon. Ralph Douglas
Faber, George Denison
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hon. A. Edward
Fergusson,Rt.Hn.SirJ.(Manc'r
Fielden, Edw. Brocklehurst
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir R. Penrose-
Fitzroy, Hon. Edward A.
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Sir M. (Lond. Univ.)
Garfit, William
Gibbs,HnA.G.H.(CityofLond.
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gordon,HnJ.E.(Elgin&Nairn)
Gore, Hon. F. S. Ormsby-
Gorst, Rt. Hn. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon. Geo. Joachim
Greene,SirEW(B'rySEdm'nds
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hain, Edward
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hamilton,RtHnL'rdG(Midd'x
Hamilton,Marq of(L'nd'nderry
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, F. L. (Tynemouth)
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Jas. (Staffords., N.W.)
Henderson, Alexander
Hermon-Hodge, Robt. Trotter
Hope,J.F(Sheffield,Brightside
Howard,CaptJ.(Kent,Faversh
Howard,J.(Midd.,Tottenham)
Hozier,Hon.JamesHenryCecil
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Knowles, Lees
Lawson, John Grant
Lecky, Rt. Hn. Wm. Edw. H.
Lee,Capt.AH(Hants.Fareham
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leighton, Stanley
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long,RtHnWalter(Bristol,S.)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas,Col.Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas,ReginaldJ.(Portsmouth
Macartney, Rt. Hn. W. G. E.
Macdona, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool
M'Calmont,Col.J.(Antrim,E.)
M'Killop, James(Stirlingshire
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Milner,Rt.Hn.SirFrederickG.
Milton, Viscount
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
More,Robt.Jasper(Shropshire)
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morris, Hon. Martin HenryF.
Morton,ArthurH.A.(Deptford
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray,RtHnAGraham(Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col.Wyndham(Bath)
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Penn, John
Percy, Earl
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Charles Bine
Rentoul, James Alexander
Renwick, George
Ridley,Hn.M.W(Stalybridge)
Ridley,S.Forde(BethnalGreen
Ritchie,RtHnChas.Thompson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Round, James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, John
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col.Samuel Alexander
Seely,Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
Seton-Karr, Henry
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart, M.H.(Renfrew
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Smith,H.C.(North'mb.,Tynes.
Smith, JamesParker(Lanarks.
Spear, John Ward
Spencer,Ernest(W.Bromwich)
Stanley, Hon.Arthur (Ormsk.)
Stanley, Edw. Jas. (Somerset)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stewart,SirMarkJ.M'Taggart
Stroyan, John
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Talbot,RtHnJ.G.(Oxf'd Univ.
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw.Murray
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Wason,JohnCathcart(Orkney
Webb, Col. William George
Welby, Lt.-Col. ACE(Taunton
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wills, Sir Frederick
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd, Wm.H.(Yorks.)
Wodehouse, Rt.Hn.E.R.(Bath
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
Young, Commander (Berks,E.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

Original Question put, and agreed to.

2. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £13,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for Rates and Contributions in lieu of Rates, etc., in respect of Government property."

MR. CALDWELL (Lanarkshire, Mid) said this was one of the opportunities the Government would have of defending the principle on which the Supplementary Estimates had been made out. He wished to know why they had lumped the amount for England and Ireland together, instead of dividing them into different heads, and why there had been no explanation given as to how much was for England and how much for Ireland. Could it be said for a moment that the money required for the rates on these properties could not have been foreseen? These properties did not come into existence yesterday or since the Estimates were made out. These buildings in London were in existence and occupation, and they could easily have taken into account in the original Estimate the amount that would be required to be paid. He noticed that they had inserted a foot-note which stated—

> "This additional sum is required to meet an increase in the poundage of rates in London and in many country districts; also in Ireland."

That argument might apply in the case of an individual, but in London the rates were under their own control and they were not like those levied by local authorities. The Government had their own valuers, and there could be no difficulty whatever in estimating the amount of those rates beforehand. He wished to know how it was that these rates had been increased? Why was it that they had increased rates in respect to England and Ireland and yet they had no increase whatever as far as Scotland was concerned? In the case of England in the year 1896 the amount required for rates and contributions in lieu of rates in respect of Government property was £250,800, for Scotland the amount was £20,500, and for Ireland £41,000. Five years later, when they came to last year's Estimates, they found that the rates in England amounted to £385,600, and this was a Supplementary Estimate in addition which would bring the sum total up to nearly £400,000 instead of the £250,800 at which it stood five years ago. That was an enormous increase. How did the matter stand with regard to Ireland? In the year 1896, in Ireland the amount for rates and contributions in lieu of rates in respect of Government property was £41,000, and last year there was a slight increase, the amount being £42,000 instead of £41,000, but that was owing to the operation of the Local Government Act. Practically speaking, so far as Ireland was concerned, for the last five years there had not been the slightest increase. As far as Scotland was concerned, if they would look at the Appropriation Accounts they would find that Scotland only got £17,000, and under these accounts if there was a saving in one country it went to the other country, and England had been getting the benefit of what Scotland had saved. They ought to have a uniform principle of valuation for England, Scotland, and Ireland.

*THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member is now going into the general question and he must be aware that that is not in order. He must confine himself to the subject-matter of the Estimate before the Committee.

MR. CALDWELL said he was complaining, as he was quite entitled to complain, that the Government were coming to the House with Supplementary Estimates for England, whilst they had not found it necessary to make Supplementary Estimates for the other country.

*THE CHAIRMAN: That is not the point with which the hon. Member was dealing when I ruled him out of order. He was then going in to the general question.

MR. CALDWELL said that as regarded these rates they ought to have an account of the amount of valuation and the taxes of the Government property throughout England, giving the details. That would facilitate them very considerably in getting at the proportion.

*THE CHAIRMAN: As I have already pointed out to the hon. Member, this is a point with which he cannot deal. He is now discussing the general principle, and that cannot be discussed upon a Supplementary Estimate. The hon Member must confine himself to this Estimate.

MR. CALDWELL contended that they were entitled to know how much of this increased expenditure was due to increased poundage of rates, and the conditions under which this increase had been rendered necessary, and he would leave the matter in that form.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: This is one of those items which is not open to the criticism of which we have heard a good deal in the earlier part of the debate to-day and yesterday, to the effect that this increase could have been foreseen and ought to have been foreseen. The whole of this Supplementary Estimate is required to meet the increased poundage in the rates. The sum which the Government take is sufficient to pay the rates and the contributions in lieu of rates on all Government property, and it is also sufficient provision for the new Government property which we came into possession of in the course of the year. This provision is wholly and exclusively taken to cover the increased poundage of rates over which we have no control, and which rests entirely with the local authority. I think the hon. Member for Mid Lanark must know that we have no control in that sense over the exact amount of the rates. I think it is now agreed that the valuation of Government property made by the Government valuer has given universal satisfaction. That valuation has been accepted in Scotland and placed on the valuation rolls. They have been accepted equally in Ireland as fair and reasonable, and they have met with the same approval of the local authorities. Once those valuations are fixed we pay as a contribution the amount which would be levied if the property was not Crown property. The whole of this amount is due to the increase of the poundage of the rates over which the Government have no control, and in order to carry out the bargain made at the request of hon. Members of this House with the local authorities, we are obliged to ask the Committee to make provision for this increased sum. The hon. Member for Mid Lanark inquires why this sum was necessary for England and Ireland and not for Scotland? That must be due to the fact that the local authorities in Scotland are very reluctant to raise the poundage of the rates.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE said the Secretary to the Treasury was mistaken in saying that they were satisfied with the present valuation of Government property in Ireland, for the general complaint was that it was not valued sufficiently high. He was sorry that, according to the Chairman's ruling, it was not proper for them to discuss the principle on which the assessments of Government properties were made. He thought that on a matter of this great importance they ought to have some representative of the Irish Administration to give them the details of this extra sum of £3,000 which was required from Ireland. They were asked to vote this £3,000 as a Supplementary Estimate in connection with the rating of Government property in Ireland, and no information was given to them as to the way in which this £3,000 was to be expended. He presumed that the Secretary to the Treasury was not in a position to give the Committee this information, but he hoped that before this debate came to an end he would be able to give the Committee the details.

*SIR ALBERT ROLLIT said that, in regard to the rates and contributions in lieu of rates in respect of Government property, he wished to say that the Returns he had moved for and obtained were sent to all the boroughs in England, and he believed in Ireland as well, and no complaint had been made at all in regard to the assessments agreed upon. In his opinion a very great wrong had been redressed by this arrangement, though the principle of the Government being its own valuer was, of course, still open to objection.

MR. DALY (Monaghan, S.) said that the statement of the right hon. Gentleman was very loose in regard to a matter of this kind. He believed, however, the discussion that night would be of very great benefit to the hon. Gentleman, because, although he was new to his office, he must understand, if he wanted to get his Votes through Committee, he must have all the details at his fingers' ends. He would feel it his duty to move a reduction of the Vote unless a better explanation was given.

MR. CALDWELL thought that the explanation given by the Secretary to the Treasury would not hold water for a moment. Here was an increase of £2,000 in the rates and contributions in lieu of rates for Admiralty property, and of £7,000 for property of the War Department. But look at the enormous buildings of the Government—dockyards, post offices, etc.—throughout the whole of England and Ireland, and how could it be that this sum of £13,000 was simply owing to increased poundage? It was nothing of the kind. If the hon. Gentleman thought that there was not to be an increased poundage in Scotland he was mistaken. The right hon. Gentleman had said that the Scotch people were satisfied, but he could assure him that the people in that country had been complaining very much. He quite recognised that on a Supplementary Vote they could not go into the principle of a uniform system of contribution; but at the same time he was entitled to call attention to the fact that if Scotland could do without an increased contribution to the rates, so should England.

MR. DILLON said that the hon. Gentleman had declared that they in Ireland were satisfied with the Government contribution to the rates. He was astonished at that in view of what had appeared in the Report of the Royal Commission on Local Taxation which had just been published. In that Report there was a most important memorandum prepared for the Commission by Mr. Charles Dawson, Collector General of Rates in Dublin, who said—

> "Government property should be openly valued, and pay rates, not as bounty, but as duty. If it be right, as the giving of a 'bounty' allows, to pay at all, it should be done as a matter of right. The valuation of this kind of property in Dublin is quite inadequate. The Castle of Dublin, with the town palace of the Viceroy, and all its Government offices, residences, private chapels, courtyards and squares, is only valued at £3,550. All the Government buildings in Dublin, including Castle, Law Courts, Custom House, Post Office, Barracks, are only valued at £36,764. In London the Law Courts alone are valued at £56,700."

Anyone who compared the Castle, Viceroy's palace, barracks, law-courts, custom house, post office, and other public buildings in Dublin with those in London would acknowledge that if the same principle of valuation were applied in Dublin as in London, the valuation of the former would be at least £120,000 instead of £36,700. He supposed an opportunity would arise of discussing ere long the Report of the Commission which had been hatching its eggs for the last six or seven years.

*SIR WALTER FOSTER said he quite understood the difficulty of making up the amount of poundage eighteen months beforehand, but he could hardly understand why an additional £10,000 was required for England, and only £3,000 for Ireland, and nothing for Scotland. Some further explanation was surely required.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN said that in making the original Estimates for the year allowance was made for any increase in the buildings, for the occupation of additional property, and also for increased valuation that was thought likely to arise on existing property. But a sufficient sum had not been allowed for a rise in the poundage rates, which of course affected the contributions the Government made. Hon Members would see that the increases were not likely to be the same, but would differ with each rating authority. He understood that, on the whole, the valuations had given satisfaction. He believed the Dublin valuation was an old one, but a proposal had been made for a new one.

*MR. O'DOHERTY said that the Government property in Ireland, and he took it that it was the same in England, was valued not as the property of private individuals at its net annual value, but at half the net annual rent. They had, in the city of Londonderry, protested against that system over and over again. He wished for some explanation of why the allowance for rates on Government property had been increased in Ireland since local government had been instituted there. Such was not his experience, and he felt that this Vote was a libel upon the County Borough Councils and County Councils in Ireland. Why had this slur been placed on the local bodies in Ireland by the Government?

Mr. TULLY (Leitrim, S.) said he wanted some further explanation in regard to the increase of £7,000 as a contribution in lieu of rates on War Department property in England. Then an increase of £3,000 was asked for Ireland; but there had been no general increase of rates in Ireland to justify their asking for such a large sum. On the contrary, since the new rating bodies had been elected by the people there had been all round a reduction of rates. He thought Dublin had been treated in a very unfair manner in regard to the rating of Government buildings. In London a grant of £10,000 was given to the fire brigade in lieu of a contribution to the rates, but no grant was given to the fire brigade in Dublin.

Mr. CALDWELL said that the hon. Gentleman had declared that the increase was due to the increase of poundage, but it was obvious that that was not the case, because, had it been due to increase of poundage, it would have applied equally all over the country. It was absurd to come forward in Committee and make a general assertion without giving them any particulars whatsoever.

Mr. FIELD said he understood the hon. Gentleman to say that the people in Ireland were satisfied with the valuation of the public buildings there. He was not satisfied [laughter]; and all the people he had consulted declared that all the Government buildings in Ireland were entirely underrated. The valuation in England was made by the local authorities, whereas in Ireland it was fixed by Government officials.

*The CHAIRMAN said that that was a Question of principle, which did not arise on the Supplementary Estimates.

Mr. FIELD said that hon. Gentlemen who laughed at a subject like taxation would be a good deal more serious if the money came out of their own pockets. This was a serious matter, and, as a protest against the absence of details in respect to the amount of the grant allocated to Ireland, he moved the reduction of the Vote by £100.

*The CHAIRMAN: Does the hon. Gentleman move in respect to the £3,000 for Ireland?

Mr. FIELD: Yes, Sir.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £12,900, be granted for the said Service."—(*Mr. Field.*)

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: If the hon. Gentleman wants to reduce the amount available for distribution in Ireland in lieu of rates, the Government, I am sure, have no objection, and I accept the Amendment.

Mr. FIELD said the hon. Gentleman had put the matter in the wrong way. It would be perfectly obvious to anyone with a knowledge of figures that it was to the total Vote his Amendment applied.

*The CHAIRMAN: The hon. Gentleman will remember that I asked him did he intend his Amendment to apply to the amount for Ireland, and he said, "Yes."

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER (Sir M. Hicks Beach, (Bristol, W.): I would point out to hon. Members that this Vote is not proposed for the advantage of the Treasury. The Treasury would be glad if none of this money went to the ratepayers either in England or Ireland; and it comes to this, that if hon. Members do not desire the Vote we will withdraw it.

*Sir WALTER FOSTER thought the Committee were unanimous in their desire to pass the Vote. At the same time it was hoped that some further information would be given upon the subject.

Mr. FIELD: I beg to withdraw my Amendment.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Original Question put, and agreed to.

3. £7,000 (Supplementary), Railways, Ireland.

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES said that this Vote, upon the face of it, was a brilliant example of the Supplementary Estimate, and if the Chancellor of the Exchequer was prepared to withdraw the whole of this Vote, as he had professed himself willing to do with the Vote last before the Committee, a very good case might be made out for his so doing. Although it might be perfectly right to bring it in as an ordinary, there was no doubt it was wrong to bring this in as a Supplementary Estimate. It appeared to be an "amount required to meet the additional claims which, in consequence of the earlier discharge under the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898, of the local liability to the several railway companies, will mature in the year." This was a liability which arose under an Act which received the Royal Assent on the 12th of August, 1898. The original Estimates were prepared in November, 1899—fifteen months after the Act was passed—when every liability which was likely to arise out of the Act was perfectly well forseeable. Why was it not foreseen? How was it that in November, 1899, the Government were unable to foresee a liability which was likely to arise out of an Act passed fifteen months previously? This system of Supplementary Estimates undoubtedly put the finances of the country upon a false basis.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN said it was, of course, foreseen that these sums would have to be paid. They were, as a matter of fact, repayments in respect of a guarantee given by the Government to the Local Government of Ireland. Under the new Local Government Act the county councils of Ireland had accelerated the work, and as soon as the payments had been made and vouched the Government were obliged to repay them.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES pointed out that his question had not been answered.

COLONEL NOLAN (Galway, N.) said, assuming the hon. Member for King's Lynn was right in the opinion he had formed, he did not think his remedy was equally so. If the hon. Gentleman disagreed with the Vote, he should move to reduce the salaries of some of his hon. friends on the Government bench, and not punish the unfortunate people of Ireland by proposing the withdrawal of the Vote.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES said he proposed to punish nobody. All he asked was, why was not this expenditure foreseen and provided for in the ordinary Estimates?

COLONEL NOLAN explained that the county councils of Ireland had made these payments, and unless this Vote was agreed to they would be out of pocket £1,500 for three months. It was not a very large sum, and he hoped the hon. Member for King's Lynn would raise no objection.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN admitted that the Government expected some acceleration in the matter of these payments, but it could not be provided for until it was known in which cases it was likely to occur. Payment had not in all cases been accelerated, and it would not be fair to take the whole amount when the whole of the amounts had not become due.

*MR. TULLY was of opinion that some further details ought to be given for the particular sum of £7,000 which was now exercising the attention of the Committee. There was a guarantee given for the railway in Leitrim. He asked how much was included for it.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: £1,700 in respect to that guarantee is included in this sum.

*MR. TULLY pointed out that under the Local Government Act, when the light railway rate exceeded sixpence the Government was to pay half, but what happened in Leitrim was that, instead of the ratepayers saving something, they suffered under a heavier tax last year, as this money was not put to the credit of the county in due time. So far as Leitrim was concerned, the Estimate was not justified, because in the first instance they had not received the amount to which they were entitled. He had no faith in the figures of Supplementary Estimates. There was, he thought, always something behind them which would not bear investigation.

*SIR JOHN COLOMB (Great Yarmouth) said the Vote was to give back from Government what the county councils had already advanced.

Resolution agreed to.

CLASS II.

4. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £6,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the salaries and expenses of the Department of His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs."

MR. DILLON said he should oppose the Vote on the two grounds that the information sent by His Majesty's Minister at Peking as to affairs in China was insufficient and misleading, and always behind date, and that the Estimate was prepared in such a way as was calculated to confuse the hon. Members of the House. He himself was able to show on one occasion that the correspondent of *The Times* at Peking was a week ahead with information. When His Majesty's Government were questioned as to nformation that had appeared in *The Times*, the House was told that they knew nothing about it; and then, perhaps a week afterwards, they were told that the information of the correspondent of *The Times* was perfectly correct. With regard to the Estimates, could anything be more objectionable than the way in which they were drawn up? This was a Supplementary Estimate of the amount required in the year ending 31st March, 1901, to pay salaries and expenses of the Department of His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and the amount now asked for was for telegrams "consequent on the state of affairs in the Far East." If the Committee turned to page 20, they would find a Supplementary Estimate for the Diplomatic and Consular Services, under which there were these items. "E. Telegrams consequent on the state of affairs in the Far East"; "U. Telegrams consequent on the state of affairs at Lorenzo Marques"; and "E.E. Postage and telegrams consequent on the state of affairs in the Far East." Therefore it would be seen that there were no less than three separate and distinct claims all based upon the state of affairs in the Far East, and all for telegrams in consequence of the state of affairs in the Far East. This he thought was most unsatisfactory. He moved the reduction of the Vote by £3,000.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £3,000, be granted for the said Service."—(*Mr. Dillon.*)

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Viscount CRANBORNE, Rochester) said that the Supplementary Estimates were prepared on the same plan as the main Estimates, and that plan was of long standing. He thought that nothing would be more calculated to confuse hon. Members than that Supplementary Estimates should be drawn on a different basis to that on which the main Estimates were drawn. With regard to the other point raised by the hon. Member, he had nothing to say except to express his admiration for the energy and enterprise of *The Times*. Although, of course, the Government had to be a little more careful, it was always the object of the Secretary of State to lay before the House as much information as possible.

MR. LABOUCHERE thought that the House did not get the full value of the information which came to Ministers. When any specific information was asked for, not only did the Government deny any knowledge, but they did not attempt to telegraph out in order to allay the grave anxiety felt in the country. His reason for objecting to this Vote was in order to make some alteration in the preparation of the Estimates. He was perfectly aware that this amount had only reference to telegrams sent, but everybody did not know that, and anybody outside the Foreign Office reading the Estimate would be under the impression that this was for telegrams sent and received. He therefore supported the reduction.

MR. J. P. FARRELL said the noble Lord's remarks were not an answer to the observations of the hon. Member for East Mayo. The original Estimate for Foreign Office telegrams was £14,000, and they were now asked for an addition of £6,000. If the book-keeping arrangements in connection with these matters were as perfect as they ought to be, why was it that the original Estimate was not more accurately made out? Complaints had been made in the discussion of the other Votes of the high percentage of the increases in the original Estimates shown by the Supplementary Estimates. In this case the increase was over 30 per cent., and no explanation had been vouchsafed of the cause, except what had been stated by the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs. He had no knowledge of the causes which led to this telegraphing, or whether it was necessary or not. He would like to hear about the contracts for this telegraphing. He understood that there were two or three lines over which cablegrams could be sent, and it was certainly a question on which they should receive some information. With whom were the contracts entered into, and what was the rate per word? The hon. Member for Northampton had referred to the fact that information had been withheld from the House, although information had been long previously supplied in the public newspapers. It appeared to him singular that any newspaper—no matter how great or how large its available capital—could be supplied with reliable information before the Government of the country. He should say that the Government of the country, which was responsible for the maintenance of the Empire, should be supplied not only with perfectly accurate but absolutely first-hand information. He imagined that the *The Times* should look to the Government rather than that the Government should look to that newspaper for information. He thought the hon. Member for East Mayo had rendered a distinct service to the cause of economy in moving for this reduction. The Irish Members had no means of checking before the event any action of the Government in connection with foreign relations, but when the bill came the Irish people were compelled to pay, although a Royal Commission had reported that they were already overtaxed.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 90; Noes, 153. (Division List No. 29.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.
Allen, Chas. P. (Glouc., Stroud
Ambrose, Robert
Atherely-Jones, L.
Boland, John
Brand, Hon. Arthur G.
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Burke, E. Haviland-
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cullinan, J.
Daly, James
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Delany, William
Dillon, John
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Edwards, Frank
Evans, Samuel T.
Fenwick, Charles
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Gilhooly, James
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hammond, John
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Jordan, Jerimiah
Joyce, Michael
Labouchere, Henry
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leng, Sir John
Levy, Maurice
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Govern, T.
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Mooney, John J.
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norton, Capt. Cecil William)
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary, Mid)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, Jas. (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, J. (Roscommon, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Perks, Robert William
Pickard, Benjamin
Power, Patrick Joseph
Reddy, M.
Redmond, J. E. (Waterford)
Rickett, J. Compton
Roche, John
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire)
Spencer, Rt. Hn C. R. (North'nts
Sullivan, Donal
Tully, Jasper
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, N.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth
Wilson, Chas. Hy. (Hull, W.)
Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir Thomas Esmonde and Captain Donelan.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Allsopp, Hon. George
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Austin, Sir John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRo
Bailey, James (Walworth)

Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, RtHnGeraldW(Leeds
Banbury, Frederick George
Beach, Rt. Hn. SirM. H(Bristol)
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex)
Bowles, T. Gibson(King's Lynn
Brigg, John
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Bull, William James
Bullard, Sir Harry
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W(Derbyshire
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm
Chamberlain, J Austen(Worc'r
Charrington, Spencer
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Colville, John
Cook, Frederick Lucas
Corbett, A. Cameron(Glasgow)
Cox, Irwin Edw. Bainbridge
Cranborne, Viscount
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Dewar, T. R. (T'rH'mletsS. Geo
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, SirWilliamTheodore
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Emmott, Alfred
Faber, George Denison
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn E.
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fitzroy, HonEdwardAlgernon
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Forster, Henry William
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H(CityofLond.
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John E.
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Green, WalfordD. (Wednesb'ry
Greene, SirEW(B'rySEdm'nds
Grenfell, William Henry
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hain, Edward
Hamilton, RtHnLordG. (Mid'x
Hamilton, Marq. of(Lond'nd'ry
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, F. Leverton (Tynem'th
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, James (Staffords, N. W.
Hermon-Hodge, Robt. Trotter
Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Knowles, Lees
Lawson, John Grant
Lee, CaptAH(Hants. Fareham)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Long, RtHn. Walter(Bristol, S.
Lonsdale, John Browlee
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Reginald (Portsmouth)
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Calmont, Col. J. (Antrim, E.)
M'Iver, SirLewis(EdinburghW
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcoln, Ian
Milner, Rt. Hon. Sir F. G.
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
More, R. J. (Shropshire)
Morgan, DavidJ. (W'lth'mst'w
Morrell, George Herbert
Morris, Hon. Martin Hy. F.
Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
Murray, Chas. J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Purvis Robert
Pym. C. Guy
Reckitt, Harold James
Reid, James (Greenock)
Renshaw, Charles Bine
Rentoul, James Alexander
Renwick, George
Ridley, Hn. M. W. (Stalybridge
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Charles T.
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W.
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alex.
Seely, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Sinclair, Lewis (Romford)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, HC(Northumb. Tynesd.
Spear, John Ward
Spencer, Ernest(W. Bromwich)
Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stewart, Sir M. J. M'Taggart
Stroyan, John
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Thornton, Percy M.
Valentia, Viscount
Wason, JohnCathcart(Orkney
Webb, Colonel William Geo.
Welby, Lt-Col. A. C. E(Taunton
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wills, Sir Frederick
Wilson, A. Stanley(York, E. R.)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Woodhouse, SirJT(Huddersf'd
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Com'nder (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

Original Question put, and agreed to.

5. Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £7,200, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Department of His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies."

MR. DILLON said that this Vote, so far as he could make out, was constructed on a different principle from the Foreign Office Vote. He took it that the additional £7,200 was for telegrams sent from and to South Africa and Ashanti. If so, that was a very much better way of keeping the account than in the case of the previous Vote. He moved the reduction of this Vote as a protest against the character of Sir Alfred Milner's telegrams, which were responsible for a considerable waste of public money. It was nothing short of an outrage that public money should be spent on the absurd telegrams Sir Alfred Milner sent.

*THE CHAIRMAN: The substance of the telegrams cannot be discussed on this Vote.

MR. DILLON: Am I not entitled to object if public money is wasted, as it has been in this case, on useless telegrams? If Sir Alfred Milner used the wires to telegraph absurd news or articles, I am surely entitled to question his action on this Vote.

*THE CHAIRMAN: The proper time to discuss that would be on the salary of the Colonial Secretary. Sir Alfred Milner's telegrams cannot be discussed without entering into the policy in pursuance of which they were sent, and it has frequently been held that upon telegrams policy cannot be discussed. In saying that I am only upholding what has been the regular practice of the House.

MR. DILLON: I am not discussing the policy at all. Am I not entitled to discuss the question how this money has been spent? Suppose that a Governor telegraphs articles which should not be telegraphed, and a Supplementary Estimate is presented to us for telegraphing a lot of absurd stuff perfectly unsuitable for telegraphing, surely nothing could be more pertinent than to move the reduction of the Vote, inasmuch as the money has been wasted in telegraphing that which should not have been telegraphed at all.

*THE CHAIRMAN: That involves policy—whether the telegrams should have been sent or not.

MR. DILLON: Are we not entitled to question this Vote at all?

*THE CHAIRMAN: It is not a new decision that I am stating. It is a very old decision—that policy cannot be discussed on a telegram.

MR. DILLON: With the deepest respect for your ruling, I do not call it discussing policy to question whether money spent on telegrams has been properly spent. I think that is a matter totally apart from policy.

*THE CHAIRMAN: The substance of the telegrams cannot be discussed on the Vote now before the Committee.

MR. DILLON said it was very difficult to understand on what ground they could question this Vote at all. If an Estimate were presented for £60,000 or for £100,000, was the House compelled to vote for it blindly and without any reference to the discretion exercised in the spending of the money? Were they to be debarred altogether from discussing this matter? If they could not question the expenditure for these telegrams on the ground of their length or number, on what grounds were they to question them at all? In using the wires from South Africa Sir A. Milner appeared to have no regard either for the public interest or for the urgency or necessity of the matter which he telegraphed. As a protest, he moved that the Vote be reduced by £3,000.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £4,200, be granted for the said Service."—(*Mr. Dillon.*)

MR. LABOUCHERE asked whether the Secretary for the Colonies would be good enough to tell them how much of this expenditure applied to Ashanti and how much to South Africa. The Vote put the two things together. He also asked what was the price per word of telegrams from Ashanti and South Africa to England, and whether the Government received any rebate from the telegraph companies.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said he recognised that they could not discuss the general policy of the Government in South Africa on this Vote, but were they not entitled to ask with reference to a particular telegram from a Colonial Governor, or sent by the Colonial Office, whether it was worth the money spent upon it? They had had other Votes in which furniture was included, and they had discussed the question whether the furniture was worth the money paid for it.

*THE CHAIRMAN said that involved a question of policy, and must be discussed on the original Estimate.

MR. DILLON said he had never discussed the policy of the question, but simply whether a particular communication was of sufficient importance to warrant its being sent by telegraph.

*THE CHAIRMAN said that that question could not be discussed without considering the action of the individual sending the telegram, and that must come on the general Vote for the office of the one responsible for the action.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.): I do not propose to continue the discussion with the Chair. I will only say on the subject that I take full responsibility for all telegrams that have been sent, not only to, but from South Africa. If, therefore, any exception is taken to any particular telegram being sent, I shall be perfectly prepared to discuss that telegram on the proper occasion, and to go into the whole of the details, which will, of course, be on the Vote for my own salary. As regards the question asked me by the hon. Member for Northampton, that is a question which really does not concern the Colonial Office. The hon. Member knows perfectly well that the Colonial Office does not make a separate telegraph contract. This is generally an arrangement which is made for all offices by the Post Office. But it is the fact that the cable companies give a very large reduction to the Government. I cannot myself say what the reduction is, but I think the cost per word is little more than half the charge to the general public. As regards the question of the amount respectively for the telegrams sent to South Africa and Ashanti it is quite impossible to go into detail, nor does the present Vote, which is a purely Supplementary Vote, show what is the total amount of the telegrams sent to both places. Of course, the Vote was taken originally for the whole telegraphic service of the Colonial Office. In consequence of the state of things caused by the South African War and by the Ashanti War, the number of telegrams estimated to be sent has been very largely exceeded, and I would point out to the hon. Member that it does not mean necessarily that these telegrams were sent either to South Africa or to Ashanti. For instance, there has been an immense amount of telegraphy owing to the action of the colonies in furnishing troops for the South African War. Communications have had to go between Australia and this country, between New Zealand and this country, and between Canada and this country; and owing to that the number of telegrams has been largely increased. The word "mainly" refers to the South African War, and it is in consequence of the South African War that we have had to send these telegrams to other colonies like Australia and Canada.

MR. FLYNN (Cork, N.) complained that the Colonial Secretary had not given the slightest idea as to the relative proportions of the cost for Ashanti and South Africa respectively. The Committee were practically asked by the Government to vote these sums blindfold. The original Estimate had been increased by 75 per cent. Were the Committee to understand that the Colonial Office were not able to calculate the probable amount of telegraphing they would have to do in connection with affairs in South Africa and West Africa more accurately than that? In this Estimate, as in all others, there was the same feature of extraordinary and excessive expenditure, causing large discrepancies, which ought to have been avoided. It was not unreasonable to ask for the rate per telegram charged by the cable companies to the Government as distinguished from the general public, or how many hundreds of telegrams it would take to account for this sum of £7,200. He hoped the examination of the Vote would be persisted in until a reasonable amount of information was forthcoming.

MR. CREAN (Cork, S.E.) protested against the form in which the Estimate was presented to the Committee. An excess of £7,000 over the original Estimate was simply inexplicable without any details being given as to how, exactly, the money had been spent. The House of Commons was treated with contempt, and it would be far more decent for the Government to say, "We want this money, you will have to give it, and we will give no information whatever." It was nothing but a policy of extravagance, and information was required in order that the fault might be traced to the persons responsible.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny) said that although there were many Irish Members who wished to discuss this subject upon the lines which had been ruled out of order, they would gladly bow to the Chairman's ruling. If there was one thing which they had a right to do, he thought it was to discuss any Estimates which were placed before them for special purposes; and although they knew that, however long these discussions might be, they would never succeed in reducing any particular Estimate at the time, they hoped and believed that healthy criticism would do something to remind Ministers that they would have to be more careful as to how they placed such matters before the Committee. He could not understand how this Estimate came to be put on the Paper at all in its present form. Why was it not put in such a way as would enable the House of Commons to exercise its right to discuss it? It was an extraordinary fact that although the original amount was £10,000, that amount had been exceeded by £7,200. That was a remarkable piece of extravagance. By the Chairman's ruling they could not touch upon Sir Alfred Milner, and they could not get at the Minister who was responsible for his appointment, for those were some of the particular items which the Committee would not be allowed to discuss. He wished to ask the Chairman in what way they could discuss this matter? This particular item seemed to be nobody's child, and yet it had to be paid for at a very extravagant price. They were told that they could not question the money which had been spent by Sir Alfred Milner, and that meant that he could spend what he liked and nobody here could question it. They desired to be orderly, and he wished to ask the Chairman if he could suggest any way in conformity with the ruling which he had given in which they could discuss this remarkable extravagance on the part of Sir Alfred Milner.

*THE CHAIRMAN: The answer is a very simple one. Among the Estimates which will be laid upon the Table presently will be one under Class 3, Vote 6, Colonial Office Vote, and one of the items will be "telegrams." When the Vote comes before the Committee the whole question can be raised.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN asked, upon a point of order, if it was right for an Estimate to be placed on the Paper in such a way that it could not be discussed, and was there any other heading under which this item should have been placed?

*THE CHAIRMAN: It is not correct to say that it cannot be discussed. The Vote has now been discussed for over an hour. In what I have laid down I have only followed the ruling of my predecessors that, on a Supplementary Vote for telegrams, it is impossible to discuss the policy embodied in those telegrams. The substance of telegrams is not open for discussion upon an item which relates only to their cost.

Attention called to the fact that forty Members were not present. House counted, and forty Members being found present—

MR. DALY thought the explanation which had been given was altogether unsatisfactory. It was most extraordinary that the right hon. Gentleman could not come nearer the mark in his original Estimate without having to come to the House for an additional £7,200. The Chairman had ruled that they could not discuss the words contained in the telegrams, and they had to be satisfied with the word of the right hon. Gentleman and those acting under him as to whether those telegrams were necessary or not, and also as to whether the words transmitted in them were correct or not. It was a most unfortunate thing that this Vote had been put down in such a way that it was very difficult to discuss it. The charge for telegrams was very heavy, and hon. Members around him were very anxious that full details should be given, and it would be very satisfactory if the right hon. Gentleman could see his way to tell them what number of words were placed in those telegrams, and at what rate they were charged for. Ireland had to contribute a large sum towards this extra £7,200. He hoped his hon. friends would press this matter to a division, and any support he could give them would be gladly given. He could assure the right hon. Gentleman and every member of the Government that in future they would find that every item which they brought forward in the House would be scanned and criticised closely by hon. Members from Ireland. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman and those acting with him would conceive it to be their duty in the future to place such Votes as this in such a position that hon. Members of the House would be able to discuss them as fully as they deserved.

Mr. O'MARA (Kilkenny, S.) said it had been stated in the course of the debate that this item was 75 per cent. higher than the original Estimate. They would find, if they took the trouble to look it up, that this Supplementary Estimate was 300 per cent. larger than last year's Estimate, and he wished to bring to the notice of the Committee the fact that last year's Estimate covered six months of the war in South Africa, including those long telegraphic communications relating to the Bloemfontein Conference and the negotiations which preceded it. No details had been placed before the House to show that the number of telegrams sent in the period for which this extra sum was asked was larger than during the period he had just alluded to, and he could not understand why they were asked to pay at the rate of 300 per cent. more this year. He wished to join in the protest which had been made from the Irish benches against being asked to vote such large sums of money without having sufficient details. Ireland would be called upon to pay its quota to this expenditure, and therefore they had a right to examine closely every item of expenditure which was placed before the House. Supplementary Estimates required a greater amount of consideration than the ordinary Estimates, because it was money required in excess of the ordinary requirements, and for that very reason they required to be more carefully examined. He would not go into the question of the contents of those telegrams, but he would like the Colonial Secretary to tell them how it was that three times as much money had been spent this year as was spent in the previous year.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 91; Noes, 149. (Division List No. 30.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.
Allen, Chas. P. (Glouc., Stroud
Ambrose, Robert
Boland, John
Brand, Hon. Arthur G.
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Burke, E. Haviland-
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cogan, Denis J.
Colville, John
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cullinan, J.
Daly, James
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Delany, William
Dillon, John
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Edwards, Frank
Emmott, Alfred
Evans, Samuel T.
Fenwick, Charles
Field, William
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Gilhooly James
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hammond, John
Hayden, John Patrick
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Labouchere, Henry
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leng, Sir John
Levy, Maurice
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Govern, T.
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
M'Laren, Charles Benjamin
Mooney, John J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Md
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, Jas. (Roscommon, N.
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Perks, Robert William
Pickard, Benjamin
Power, Patrick Joseph
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Rickett, J. Compton
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Roche, John
Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfarsh
Spencer, Rt Hn C. R. (Northants
Sullivan, Donal
Tully, Jasper
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wilson, Chas. Henry (Hull, W.
Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)

Tellers for the Ayes—Sir Thomas Esmonde and Captain Donelan.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Allsopp, Hon. George
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Austin, Sir John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W. (Leeds
Banbury, Fredk. George
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex)
Bowles, T. Gibson (King's Lynn
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Bull, William James
Bullard, Sir Harry
Caldwell, James
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlain, Rt Hon. J. (Birm.
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc.
Charrington, Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Cook, Frederick Lucas
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Cranborne, Viscount
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Cubitt, Hon Henry
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Dewar, T R (T'r H'mlets, S. Geo.
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence Sir Edwin
Faber, George Denison
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
Fitzroy, Hon. Edward Algernon
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Forster, Henry William
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H (City of Lond.
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gorst, Rt. Hn. Sir John Edon
Green, W. D. (Wednesbury)
Greene, Sir E. W. (Bury St. Ed,)
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
Grenfell, William Henry
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hain, Edward
Hamilton, Marq. of (L'nd'nd'y
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, F. L. (Tynemouth)
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, J. (Staffords., N. W.)
Hermon-Hodge, Robert T.
Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Knowles, Lees
Lawson, John Grant
Lee, Capt. A. H (Hants, Farehm
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Rt. Hn. W. (Bristol, S)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, R. J. (Portsmouth)
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Calmont, Col. J. (Antrim, E.)
M'Iver, Sir L. (Edinburgh, W.)
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
More, R. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
Murray, Chas. J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Reckitt, Harold James
Reed, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Charles Bine
Rentoul, James Alexander
Renwick, George
Ridley, Hn. M. W. (Stalybridge
Ritchie, Rt. Hon Chas. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W.
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, H C (Northmb. Tyneside
Spear, John Ward
Spencer, Ernest (W. Bromwich)
Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stewart, Sir Mark J. M'Taggart
Stroyan, John
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Valentia, Viscount
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Webb, Colonel William George
Welby, Lt.-Col. A C E (Taunton
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wills, Sir Frederick
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

Original Question put, and agreed to.

6. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £1,015, be granted to His Majesty to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Office of the Lord Privy Seal."

MR. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy Burghs) said it was a matter of some surprise that a proper representative of the Government had not on this motion thought it is duty to make some explanation of the Vote. It differed from other Votes which the Committee had been discussing, inasmuch as it was not a Supplementary Estimate, but practically a new Vote. He protested in the most emphatic fashion against a new Vote, embodying a new principle, and practically creating a new office, being smuggled through in the shape of a Supplementary Estimate. He objected to the manner in which the Vote had been brought forward, and maintained that before the country was pledged to an expenditure on this new head, the permission of the House of Commons ought to have been obtained. As the result of an understanding which had been come to with the House of Commons, the Great Seal Act of 1884 was passed, and the duties in connection with the office of Lord Privy Seal were abolished. Since that time many distinguished men had filled the office of Lord Privy Seal in an honorary capacity; at any rate, they did not receive any remuneration for any services which it was imaginable they discharged. These included Lord Rosebery, Lord Cross, Mr. Gladstone, Lord Cadogan, Lord Tweedmouth, and Lord Salisbury himself. His objection to this Vote was not of a personal character in regard to the present distinguished occupant of the post. No member of the Cabinet was held in higher respect by his political opponents than the Prime Minister; and some of them were, in these later days, only beginning to realise the great debt of gratitude which they owed to the Prime Minister for carrying the country through troublous times in a peaceful and diplomatic fashion. It was in no personal sense, then, that he objected to this Vote; but he thought the Committee was entitled to some explanation. What could that explanation be? There was plenty of money in the Treasury chest, and there was no reason to re-establish this office except that explained in a letter which the Prime Minister wrote to a late distinguished colleague of his, the former President of the Local Government Board, the Member for Sleaford, in which the Prime Minister said that there were so many people to make room for that the right hon. Gentleman had to give up his post. That was the reason why they were asked to go back on a decision the House of Commons arrived at many years ago, and to re-establish an office which was purely ornamental and a sinecure. He could imagine the Prime Minister, after having listened to every claim made upon him, and having surrendered to it, sitting down in Hatfield and acknowledging to himself that he had given so much away that he had nothing left for himself. For what was his position? He was no longer Foreign Secretary—he had given that post away. He had no salary; not even an office to which his letters could be addressed. And therefore he had to make up his mind to confer upon himself some post; and so hit upon that of the Lord Privy Seal. He (the hon. Member) objected to a salary being attached to this post. It seemed to him that if the Prime Minister was to be paid—and he thought he ought to be paid, and well paid—then the salary ought to be asked for on the footing of Premiership, and that it ought not to be brought forward on a Vote of this kind for an office which had no duties attached to it. If the Prime Minister was to have a salary, then it ought to be a respectable salary. He could not understand how the noble Lord arrived at the conclusion that £2,000 a year was what he was worth. He might have sent for Whitaker's Almanack, and gone down the list of Ministers, and when he came to the Colonial Secretary he might have said, "What does that great man get for his transcendent services to the country?" £5,000! And he might have said to himself, "If the Colonial Secretary receives £5,000 a year, I ought to write myself down at half that sum." He (the hon. Member) objected to the fact that the Prime Minister received only £2,000 per year when his subordinates—for, after all, they were his subordinates—received more than double that sum. Why, the salary of the Clerk of the House of Lords was more, and a town council engineer received more. He protested in the interest of the Prime Minister, who, it seemed to him, had been very badly treated. Lord Salisbury had been placed in a situation which appealed to the generous instincts of our nature, and if none of his friends stood up for him it was necessary for some hon. Members on that side of the House to do so. He objected also that the Prime Minister should so undervalue himself. He did not think that he ought to be allowed to become a kind of Parliamentary blackleg. He ought to belong to the Parliamentary trade union, and should not take less than trade union wages, or less than an Under Secretary who read out answers to questions in the House of Commons and was not capable of explaining them. Therefore he thought the noble Lord was entitled to their sympathy. He did not go so far as to say that the same course should be pursued here as had been taken in some other countries. He believed that from the time the war broke out between Spain and America the Spanish Ministers went on half rations. He did not suggest that Ministers here should go on half rations, or that they should make a subscription on behalf of the Prime Minister. But some more satisfactory way should be taken of dealing with the Prime Minister. Further, a most extraordinary departure from constitutional rule had been made in the preparation of this Estimate. They were asked to vote a sum at the rate of £400 a year for the private secretary to the Prime Minister. That was an innovation. The Constitution knew nothing of the Prime Minister; and he doubted whether there was any record of the House which spoke of the private secretary of the Prime Minister. They might just as well put down a sum for the private secretary of the parish minister. It might have been put down as salary of the private secretary to the Lord Privy Seal, but not as secretary to the Prime Minister; and some explanation was required why this item had been prepared in that particular way. The right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Vote might say, "It is all very well, but what could the Prime Minister have done? He must have some claim on the country; he must have some salary." It was very difficult to answer these questions; but he might have left some of his friends out of the Cabinet, or, at all events, he might have induced some of his present colleagues to give up their posts—the Colonial Secretary, for instance, who has had a very busy time of it for the last few years. He might have offered to take the duties of that arduous Department, and induced the right hon. the Colonial Secretary to go to another place with some seductive title. It was disgraceful that the Prime Minister should have no official office, although the Foreign Secretary had shown so much sympathy with him as to offer him a room in the Foreign Office. But that was not the way to treat the Prime Minister, who might have got a seat in the Colonial Secretary's office with a big seal stamp handy on his desk. The Committee was entitled to some explanation for this departure from a bargain solemnly passed by the House of Commons taking away all the duties and the salary of the Lord Privy Seal; and he hoped that the right hon. Gentleman would be able to tell the Committee that he would either withdraw the Vote or bring forward a handsome sum, worthy of the great services of the Prime Minister of the country.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): I do not quite understand whether the hon. Member wished to deprive the Prime Minister of his moderate salary or to increase it to the more substantial figure which some other Members of the Cabinet are fortunate enough to enjoy. The hon. Member appeared to oscillate between the two. The hon. Member commenced his speech by complaining that the House of Commons has been forced, without notice, into this new policy. Surely we did all we could to take the House of Commons into our confidence at the earliest opportunity by putting this Vote down as a Supplementary Estimate at the very beginning of the first session that has occurred since the arrangement was made. There was a meeting in December, but the object of that meeting was strictly limited, and I do not think that any discussion on this matter could arise then. This, therefore, is the first opportunity that we have had.

MR. DALZIEL: He has had the money before.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not complain of the hon. Member's raising the point on this occasion. I make some subtractions from that part of the hon.

Gentleman's speech which was really not meant to argue for an increase of the Prime Minister's salary, but was intended for the indulgence of some ingenious sarcasm at the expense of some of the Prime Minister's colleagues. As regards his comments as to the actual course pursued, it is perfectly true that there were certain incongruities and inconsistencies in the course taken, and why was it? Because, as everybody knows, the Prime Minister is not formally recognised in the Constitution, although he is the most important person in the Ministry. That is one of the curious results of our Constitution which has slowly grown up in the course of centuries. There are these apparent inconsistencies in the Constitution, and we should be slow to interfere with them, for they do no harm to the growth of our institutions. We all know that there is a Prime Minister; we all know that he does not appear among the officers of the State as such. Sometimes he is called the First Lord of the Treasury, sometimes he is called Foreign Secretary or Chancellor of the Exchequer, and sometimes Lord Privy Seal, but never has he been called Prime Minister in the formal proceedings of the House. That being so, we have to fit our arrangements into this somewhat anomalous state of things. I think the plan we have adopted is not a bad one. The office of Privy Seal was vacant, and it is one to which the duties of the Prime Minister may be attached as well as to the office of First Lord of the Treasury or Foreign Secretary; and the hon. Gentleman himself is first to acknowledge that he should not be an unpaid Member of the Government and that we must attach a salary to the office. Of course, should the present holder of the office of Privy Seal cease to be Prime Minister, his salary would cease at the same time, and should he resign the office of Privy Seal and another gentleman be appointed to the office who was not Prime Minister, he would not receive the salary. So long as the duties are associated with the Prime Minister it is quite clear that you ought to make the office a paid office. The hon. Gentleman tells us that the salary of £2,000 a year is insufficient. I am quite willing to agree with him that that salary is no measure, absolutely or relatively, of the services of the Prime Minister to the State; but £2,000 a year is the old salary attaching to this office of Privy Seal; it is the salary which the Prime Minister himself suggested; and, though I agree that on any scale of merit it is inadequate, if the Prime Minister himself is contented I do not know that either my colleagues or the House of Commons need interfere in the matter. That is the broad explanation of the policy that has been pursued, and I feel sure it will commend itself to the House at large; and I hope the hon. Gentleman will feel that I have justified the course which the Government have taken.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): The right hon. Gentleman has dealt ingeniously with the question raised by my hon. friend; but he passed over the *fons et origo* of the difficulty, which was the great mistake that he has committed in recent years of divorcing the position of the head of the Ministry from the occupant of the office of First Lord of the Treasury. That office is the natural and proper one to be held by the Prime Minister; and it is peculiar that, though, as the right hon. Gentleman says, the Premiership has sometimes been associated with the Foreign Secretaryship and sometimes with the office of First Lord of the Treasury, it has only been associated with the Foreign Secretaryship in the case of Lord Salisbury himself; and nothing but evil came to the country from the combination of these two offices. I have not a word to say in depreciation of Lord Salisbury, either as Foreign Secretary or as Prime Minister; but I say it is perfectly impossible that any man can properly fulfil the functions of both offices. I will take the case of the Foreign Office. Undoubtedly Lord Salisbury devoted an enormous amount of time—and probably prejudiced his health by his devotion—to the duties of the Foreign Minister. He has filled that great position with great success and to the great advantage of the nation, but during all that time every one can see that the proper business of the Prime Minister, which is to keep in proper co-ordination his own colleagues and to keep a master-eye on all their proceedings—anyone can see that that was neglected. Taking the work of the Foreign Office alone, we lose the advantage of a second head assisting the man nominally at the head of the office. When there is a Prime Minister as well as a Foreign Secretary all the Foreign Office work, all telegrams, despatches, and so forth are submitted to the judgment of the Prime Minister; and thus there is an additional guarantee that the affairs of the country are being wisely and deliberately administered. It has often surprised me that the country and the House of Commons bore so patiently a state of things so obviously prejudicial to the public interest. At last Lord Salisbury, partly owing to his health being overtaxed, determined to give up one of these offices. He retained the Premiership. The proper course would have been for him to take the position of First Lord of the Treasury. As we all know, the emoluments of public functionaries vary considerably, and I am not at all sure that that variance is altogether in the public interest. I think there is a great deal to be said for a rearrangement in such a way as to bring about greater equality; but that is not before us now. We have only to do with this particular arrangement, made to meet an emergency. I confess that to my mind there was a way of meeting it which would not have involved the recreation of a sinecure office, and that was to have made the Prime Minister First Lord of the Treasury, and to have made some other arrangement of the other offices among the distinguished Gentlemen on the bench opposite. The office of First Lord of the Treasury—and I speak in the presence of one whc knows it well—has this advantage, that it has little or no departmental work attaching to it. It has a certain amount of agreeable duty in the way of the bestowal of patronage and in the selection of the recipients of good things, which is always an easy, a charming, and a delightful duty. But, except for that, I do not think the First Lord of the Treasury is overworked. Therefore it is an office particularly suitable to the man who has to exercise a general supervising power over the proceedings of the Departments of State. That is the proper arrangement, and I regret that the Government have found themselves forced to revive the salary for an office which is almost the last surviving sinecure in the public service.

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES said the matter was undoubtedly one of great public importance. The Committee were asked to vote a salary for an office every duty of which had been abolished by Act of Parliament many years ago, and the Committee had been told the reason. For the first time the title of Prime Minister appeared on the Papers of the House.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: No, no. If the hon. Member will look at the Estimates for past years, he will find the same words—"Private Secretarv to the Prime Minister."

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES said the office of Prime Minister was unknown to the

Constitution, and the introduction of the title in the Estimates was another example of the slipshod English in which they were framed. But, although the title was unknown, the office was not, and it had been amply provided for ever since the time of Sir Robert Walpole, when the Treasury was put into commission in such a way, and the position of the First Lord so provided for, that although he had an office of dignity and proper emoluments, he was freed from Parliamentary duties in order that he might be able to oversee his colleagues and supporters. The proper function of the Prime Minister was to oversee his colleagues in the Government; and he was bound to say that, since the recent changes in the Government had been effected, the Government had received a great accession of strength from the circumstance that Lord Salisbury, as Prime Minister, had been restored to a position which enabled him to superintend the work of his colleagues. During the time that Lord Salisbury was both Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary each department was allowed to do what seemed best in its own eyes, and the result of this absence of control had been that mistakes of the gravest character were committed. The Duke of Wellington had said that it was impossible for anyone to exercise the office of Prime Minister unless he was also First Lord of the Treasury, because it was essential that he should have that control of the purse-strings which the latter office gave him. Why, recently Lord Salisbury in the House of Lords made a strong and determined attack on the Treasury for the manner in which it met the demands upon it for the public service. If Lord Salisbury were First Lord of the Treasury, which he ought to be as Prime Minister, that state of things could not have occurred. The Government had been reconstituted and strengthened—(Opposition laughter) — well, reconstituted—and there should have been no difficulty whatever in finding for the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the House another post, so that the office of First Lord of the Treasury might revert to the Prime Minister. He hoped the Leader of the House would not be offended when he said that the right hon. Gentleman enjoyed the emoluments and dignities of the office without discharging any of its duties. But if the Government had had the courage of their convictions, what they should have done was to boldly propose to create the office of Prime Minister and endow it with a salary of £5,000 a year. He submitted that it was not a proper thing to come down and ask this House to endow the Prime Minister with an insufficient salary in the name of an office which was so discredited that it had been abolished by Act of Parliament years ago.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR (Liverpool, Scotland) said the Committee were discussing a very important question. He believed there was one point on which all sections of the Committee were agreed—namely, that the change which had been made was one in many respects for the better. No one had the least objection to the Prime Minister being relieved from the terrible burden of the Foreign Secretaryship; the point on which the First Lord of the Treasury and the Committee were at variance was the method by which the Prime Minister had been relieved from the duties of the Foreign Office. By the Act of 1884—"to simplify the passing of instruments under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom"—it was enacted that it "shall not be necessary that any instrument shall, after the passing of this Act, be passed under the Privy Seal," or, in other words, the functions of the Privy Seal were practically abolished by that statute. Yet here, by a Supplementary Estimate, they were practically repealing the principal effect of that Act. The Committee would remember some time ago, when Colonel King-Harman was a Member of this House, the then Chief Secretary for Ireland attempted to establish in the Estimates a position for an Under Secretaryship for Ireland. That was opposed, and, after considerable discussion, the Chief Secretary had to withdraw his proposals, as it was found to be impossible to carry them through without a special Act of Parliament.[†] Yet the Committee, now, were asked to re-establish, by a Supplementary Estimate, an office which had long been abolished, when it was found impossible to establish a paltry Under Secretaryship without an Act of Parliament. He quite agreed as to the wisdom of Lord Salisbury being relieved from the duties of the Foreign Office, and he was strongly of opinion that had Lord Salisbury, being Prime Minister, coupled that duty with a less onerous office in the past, the history of the last year and a half would have been less sanguinary. The action of the Government in reviving the office of the Lord Privy Seal was simply a palinode. The First Lord of the Treasury, which was the proper office for the Prime Minister to hold, had a general control over the expenditure of the country, and was thus able to control the different heads of the Departments of the Government; but the Lord Privy Seal had no such control, and it was never intended he should. Now the Government proposed to re-establish an abolished office, and to recreate a salary which was never intended to be recreated. His hon. friend had been more than justified in the position he had taken up in this matter.

*SIR J. FERGUSSON (Manchester, N.E.) said that out of doors this would be thought one of those infinitesimal questions on which the House of Commons occupied itself to the exclusion of important business. It was as small as the question of the difference between tweedledum and tweedledee. The hon. Member for King's Lynn suggested that it would be better for the First Lord of the Treasury to resign his office so that the Prime Minister should assume it, and that he, in turn, should be Lord Privy Seal. That was a suggestion which, if acted upon, would open the door for the strongest opposition from the other side. The office of Lord Privy Seal had not been abolished, and it was not so many years ago that a Prime Minister in the House of Commons assumed it in addition to his other. He remembered that Lord Malmesbury, when he held the office, was extremely useful in the House of Lords, calling himself the odd man. It was an office of great dignity, ranking very high in the order of precedence, and was therefore suitable as an appanage of the Prime Minister, who had resigned the onerous office of Foreign Secretary. The unrivalled power of work Lord Salisbury had enabled him, until recently, to carry on the duties of Foreign Secretary in addition to those of the head of the Government, but it was not surprising that, with advancing age, he should wish to be relieved of the direct duties of Secretary of State. No doubt, as Prime Minister, he would exercise supervision over the foreign policy of the country, and it was appropriate that the office of Lord Privy Seal should be held by him.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee) said he did not at all agree with the right hon. Baronet who had just sat down. He did not think anything that touched the office of Prime Minister or touched the British Constitution should be considered infinitesimal in that House. Without knowing it themselves, and without, he was sure, any intention on the part of the Government, they had been plunged deep into the mysteries of the British Constitution. He did not object to the specific arrangement proposed that day that this salary should be attached to this particular office so long as it was held by the Prime Minister, but questions had been raised as to the character of the office itself, and as to the existence of any duties attached to the office. He thought the time had come when, before proceeding to vote a salary for an office to which they were told no duties were attached, they should have legal advice. He asked the Attorney General to tell them what was the legal status of this officer. He had before him the Act of Parliament of 1884, to which the hon. Member for King's Lynn had referred. The Act declared that no legal instrument need, after that date, be passed under the Privy Seal. He wished to know whether that phrase included all the duties attached to the office of Lord Privy Seal?

[†] See *The Parliamentary Debates* [Third Series], vol. cccxxiii., pages 730, 1709; vol. cccxxiv., page 725; vol. cccxxv., page 909; vol. cccxxvi., page 208.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES said it did.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON knew that the hon. Member thought so, but in a matter of this sort the Committee ought to be guided by its legal adviser. Did the Act of 1884 sweep away all the duties formerly attached to the office, and, if not, what were the duties now attached to it?

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Sir ROBERT FINLAY, Inverness Burghs) said that the Committee should consider the matter in the light of common sense. Could it be supposed that before the passing of the Act of 1884 much time was actually spent by the Lord Privy Seal in passing legal instruments? The Lord Privy Seal would not personally look after matters of that kind. The office had existed for a very long time. In other days there were duties attached to the office which had now become obsolete; but the office had been retained, and it had proved extremely useful. It had generally been a Cabinet office, and he thought it was a very happy phrase which was used by the right hon. Baronet the Member for North-East Manchester, that the holder of the office had on one occasion been a sort of "odd man" in the Cabinet, ready to do any duty. The right hon. and learned Gentleman did not pretend that the duties were onerous, but the Act of 1884 did not abolish the office altogether. The truth was that the office existed, it had been held for a long time past by a Cabinet Minister, and he ventured to think that an office of this kind, with no departmental duties attached to it, might be extremely useful.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said this question had been raised without any personal reference at all to Lord Salisbury. It was purely as a matter of expediency affecting the public service that his hon. friend had raised it. What they objected to on that side of the House was that they were asked to vote for the re-establishment of an office which was neither fish, flesh, fowl, nor good red herring—an office to which no duties were attached. They were asked practically—and this was the complaint—to vote a salary, not for an office, but for a particular individual. The right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the House had said that if Lord Salisbury resigned the office of Lord Privy Seal the salary would cease with his leaving the office. It seemed to him an unconstitutional proposal that they should vote a salary, not for an office, but for a person. What they desired was to have a Prime Minister with a proper salary. He certainly thought, so far as the debate had gone, that the general feeling was that the Prime Minister ought not to receive a salary from the country of lesser amount than that of any of his colleagues. He was merely looking at this question from the point of view of the public service, and he was bound to say that he agreed with the hon. Member for King's Lynn that they ought to have created at the present moment an office for the Prime Minister in the House of Lords. He hoped the Government would take that into consideration. He knew they could not do it off-hand, but he thought that a great many Members felt very strongly that a suitable office ought to be created for the Prime Minister, as well as a suitable office for the Leader of the House of Commons.

MR. MALCOLM (Suffolk, Stowmarket) said the Prime Minister was regarded with great respect on both sides of the House. They were lucky in having got the Prime Minister so cheap. The hon. Member for King's Lynn had put forward a most unconstitutional doctrine. He actually said that the Prime Minister and the Leader of the House of Commons should exchange their respective official positions. The hon. Member for King's Lynn brought in the Duke of Wellington as a great constitutional authority. He never thought the hon. Member would subscribe to the opinion that the First Lord of the Treasury in the House of Commons should give up control of the purse, or that he would go further and say that Lord Salisbury should be First Lord of the Treasury in the other House. They had always understood it to be the privilege of the House of Commons to have control of the purse. The doctrine laid down by the hon. Member for King's Lynn was quite unworthy of the hon. Member.

*MR. HEMPHILL (Tyrone, N.) regretted that the Attorney General had not indicated to the Committee the duties now attached to the office of Lord Privy Seal. The Act of Parliament expressly said that no instrument need be passed under the Privy Seal; the office of Lord Privy Seal had ceased to have any utility. True in old times Privy Seal was an important office, and through the holder of it the sanction of the Sovereign was expressed in relation to many matters; but that importance no longer existed. He thought the First Lord of the Treasury should be a Member of the House of Commons, but that did not solve the question. They had now a 20-horse power Cabinet. There was no precedent in history for a Cabinet of twenty learned and unlearned Lords, and surely out of the score one might be First Lord of the Treasury and sit in the Commons. How right hon. Gentlemen and noble Lords should shift and settle their offices he would not presume to suggest, but certainly he desired the presence of the present First Lord of the Treasury so long as they were afflicted with the present Administration. In these parlous times they had no right to saddle the country with a salary of £2,000 a year for an office which had not existed since 1884. They were not in such affluent circumstances, in such golden times, in such rosy seasons that, with an income tax of probably 1s. 6d. in the £1, and an addition to the National Debt of £100,000,000, the interest for which the taxpayers must provide, they could throw away £2,000 a year. With Irish unselfishness he would not grudge the Prime Minister £2,000 if he thought he needed it, but that was out of the question, and he doubted if constitutionally the House would be justified in voting the money; but in any case there was no reason for doing so. If the Prime Minister chose to give up the seals of the Foreign Office for the purpose of getting rid of some of the Cabinet, and replacing them by other followers, he ought to do it at his own expense.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I should have rather thought that the speech we have just heard might have been considered a worthy termination of a debate which has not been very serious or addressed to any very serious constitutional problem. So far as I can discover, three main objects have been had in view by hon. Members in the criticisms they have offered. In the first place they have repeated that rather time-worn attack upon the association of the office of Prime Minister with the post of Foreign Secretary. The Leader of the Opposition dwelt at length on that subject, and the hon. Member for Scotland Division followed his example. We do not agree with the view expressed. We think that the period Lord Salisbury was able to devote to the offices of Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary combined was marked by great benefit to the country, and if that combination has ceased it is not because in Lord Salisbury's opinion, and certainly not in that of his colleagues, it was otherwise than beneficial, but because, unfortunately, the strength of the Prime Minister is not equal to supporting the weight of two such onerous offices at the same time. A less amiable object hon. Members have had in view is an attack on the Colonial Secretary. ["No."] Certainly three or four speakers explained at length that, had not the Prime Minister been also Foreign Secretary a year and a half ago, there would not have been war in South Africa. I am surprised at the extraordinarily minute knowledge displayed of what goes on in the Cabinet by gentlemen who are not there. They speak with absolute assurance of the relations of one Minister to another, and of matters upon which they can have no knowledge, all founded on conjecture springing from party zeal and a fervid imagination. The third object of the debate appears to me to be to turn the Prime Minister into the First Lord of the Treasury, and the First Lord of the Treasury into the Lord Privy Seal. That was the amiable suggestion of my hon. friend the Member for King's Lynn. He said, as others have said, that commonly, though very far from universally, the office of Prime Minister has been associated with the office of First Lord of the Treasury;

and that was justified by the right hon. Gentleman opposite on the ground that the First Lord of the Treasury had little or no administrative work to perform. Well, that is true even in a greater degree in regard to the Lord Privy Seal, and if the fact that the First Lord of the Treasury has not any Department is a good reason for very frequently associating with that office the Prime Ministership, it appears ample justification for the course the Government has actually taken, which is that of choosing an office which has never been abolished, which is legally constituted, and has been continuously filled by some member of the Government up to the present moment, on the very ground that it has not got duties associated with it, and that therefore the holder of the office has ample leisure for carrying out the great duties of Prime Minister. Then my hon. friend the Member for King's Lynn thinks that as the Leader of the House has nothing to do, as he leads a leisured life, a life of ease and luxury, the office is not worthy of its emolument. Well, Sir, I wish my hon. friend would for a week fill the office which he is so eminently qualified to adorn; his well-known appetite for work, I think, would find ample satisfaction. Whether or not his particular style of Parliamentary oratory would be suited to the special functions of the Leader of the House, at all events I am certain he would not find it a sinecure office. But my hon. friend fell into one mistake. He said, truly enough, that the position of Prime Minister should be a position of dignity, but added that therefore he should be First Lord of the Treasury instead of being Lord Privy Seal. As a matter of fact, the First Lord of the Treasury has no technical dignity or rank, he ranks behind every Secretary of State in point of dignity, and the Lord Privy Seal ranks before every Secretary of State in point of dignity. The Lord Privy Seal is next, I think, to the Lord President of the Council and the Lord Chancellor.

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: When he is a peer.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: Yes. It is a position of the highest dignity, and is therefore very suitable for the Prime Minister; and I can see no objection whatever to the course which the Government have pursued, except the singular objection which has been urged with kind persistency by hon. Gentlemen opposite, that the salary of £2,000 a year is not adequate for the Prime Minister of this country. I do not deny that, but this is all that has been suggested by the Prime Minister himself. If, however, I understand that, *nemine contradicente*, a larger amount would be unanimously voted, if I could receive some assurance that that would pass without debate, discussion, or the expenditure of time, it might be worth considering whether the Vote might not be withdrawn and a higher salary proposed. But, on the whole, I am inclined to think that, however generous hon. Gentlemen may be in these suggestions of increased pay when these suggestions have not the immediate effect of expediting public business, their ardour would notably cool if the proposal were made; and I am convinced that we should find a remarkable and unexpected number of persons who, when it came to the point, would say that, after all, if the Prime Minister was content with £2,000 it would be perfectly monstrous in these hard times to extract from the hard-wrung British taxpayer an additional £3,000. In these circumstances I venture to suggest to the House that our policy is in accordance with constitutional usage, that it gives to the Prime Minister an office of great dignity which, outside his duties as Prime Minister, inflicts on him no extra labour and involves no expenditure of time, and that it is an arrangement which is economical to the taxpayer. I do not think any other arrangement which could be suggested could combine all those advantages, or even a majority of them. I venture to suggest, therefore, that the House might now consent to accept the arrangement, which, as far as I can judge, meets all the necessities of the case.

Mr. LABOUCHERE: I do not desire to attack any hon. Member opposite. I am quite ready to admit, for the sake of argument, that right hon. Gentlemen sitting on the Treasury Bench are in the estimation of every one of their followers most fitted to sit on that bench, and I am also prepared to admit that every gentleman on that Bench is best fitted to occupy the particular office he holds; but notwithstanding the great wisdom of these gentlemen they are in my opinion now doing a thing in a very stupid manner. Their object is perfectly legitimate—namely, to give a salary to the Prime Minister. Why do they not propose a salary for the Prime Minister, instead of giving him a salary by a bye-wind and reviving the dormant office of Lord Privy Seal? No one would deny that the Prime Minister should have private secretaries, and that they should be paid. No one would wish to vote against that part of the Vote, but the reason why I intend to vote against the salary of the Lord Privy Seal is that I consider it more consistent with the dignity of this House that when we have a Prime Minister we ought to vote him a salary, and an adequate salary. It is said that the Prime Minister has no constitutional existence. He has a constitutional existence, not by statute but by usage. If the right hon. Gentleman would bring forward a motion such as he suggested, giving a salary to the Prime Minister, so far as I am concerned—and I think I speak for many hon. Gentlemen on this side of the House—we are perfectly prepared to support it. I am ready to withdraw my Amendment if the right hon. Gentleman will carry out his own proposal, withdraw this Vote and propose an adequate salary for the Prime Minister. I beg to move the reduction of the Vote by £758.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £257, be granted for the said service." (*Mr. Labouchere.*)

COLONEL NOLAN said, as was pointed out by the hon. Member who had just spoken, one great advantage of the Prime Minister having a salary was that it could be reduced if he went wrong. He thought Lord Salisbury was the most eminent statesman and most valuable Foreign Secretary, and he had the highest opinion of his general ability, but nevertheless he for one reason would support the Amendment. He would frankly state why. It was because on a recent occasion Lord Salisbury gave very bad advice to the Sovereign. He did not support the Amendment because Lord Salisbury was called Lord Privy Seal, but because in his opinion he very badly advised His Majesty——

*THE CHAIRMAN: Order, order! The hon. Member cannot on this Vote bring up a matter of that sort.

COLONEL NOLAN said that he would bow to the Chairman's decision, and as he could not bring forward his special point he would not take up the time of the Committee. Everyone would, however, understand why he supported the Amendment of the hon. Member for Northampton.

MR. COGHILL (Stoke-upon-Trent) said he intended to vote in favour of the Amendment. It seemed to him that the Government were not proceeding in the right way in the matter, and he would oppose the motion, because it inflicted £2,000 a year on the taxpayers. He thought that there was plenty of money, if properly distributed, to properly pay all the members of the Cabinet. The question was, how was it to be allocated? If there was to be a Prime Minister, by all means let him be paid liberally and generously, but he did not think that, at a time like the present, any additional burden should be placed on the country.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 107; Noes, 183. (Division List No. 31.)

AYES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Allen, Chas. P. (Glouc., Stroud)
Ambrose, Robert
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Boland, John
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Burke, E. Haviland-
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Carew, James Laurence
Carvill, Patrick George H.
Channing, Francis Allston

Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter
Crean, Eugene
Cullinan, J.
Daly, James
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies,M.Vaughan-(Cardigan
Delany, William
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dillon, John
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank
Emmott, Alfred
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans, Samuel T.
Fenwick, Charles
Field, William
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gilhooly, James
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Richard Burden
Hammond, John
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne,Rt.Hon. CharlesSeale-
Hemphill, Rt. Hon.CharlesH.
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Levy, Maurice
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Govern, T.
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
M'Laren, Charles Benjamin
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mooney, John J.
Morgan,J.Lloyd(Carmarthen)
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan,Col.JohnP. (Galway,N.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norman, Henry
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien,Kendal(TipperaryMd
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor,James(Wicklow,W.
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly,James(Rosc'mmon,N
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, J. P.

Pickard, Benjamin
Power, Patrick Joseph

Rea, Russell
Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Redmond, JohnE.(Waterford)
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roche, John

Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sullivan, Donal

Tennant, Harold John
Thomas,F.Freeman-(Hastings
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Tully, Jasper

Ure, Alexander
Warner,ThomasCourtenay T.
Wason,Eugene(Clackmannan
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Williams,Osmond(Merioneth)
Wilson,Chas.Henry(Hull,W.)
Woodhouse,SirJ.T.(Huddersf'
Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Labouchere and Mr. Dalziel.

NOES.

Acland-Hood,Capt.SirAlex.F
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Archdale, Edwin Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balfour,Rt.Hon.A.J.(Manch'r
Balfour,RtHnGeraldW(Leeds
Banbury, Frederick George
Beach,Rt.Hn.SirM.H.(Bristol
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Bowles, Capt. H.F.(Middlesex
Bowles, T.Gibson(King'sLynn
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Bull, William James
Bullard, Sir Harry
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish,V.C.W(Derbyshire
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt.Hn.J.(Birm.
Chamberlain,JAusten(Worc'r
Charrington, Spencer
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H.A.E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb,SirJohnCharlesReady
Cook, Frederick Lucas
Corbett, A.Cameron(Glasgow)
Cranborne, Viscount
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Dewar,T.R.(T'rH'mlets,S.Geo
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dimsdale, Sir JosephCockfield
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir WilliamTheodore
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Faber, George Denison
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
Fergusson,Rt.Hn.SirJ.(Manc.
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robt. Penrose-
Fitzroy, Hon. Edward A.
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Gibbs,Hn.A.G.H.(CityofLond
Gordon,Hn.J.E.(Elgin&Nairn
Gore, Hon. F. S. Ormsby-
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John E.
Goschen, Hon. George J.
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Green,WalfordD.(Wedn'sbr'y
Greene, Sir E. W.(BurySt.Ed.
Grenfell, William Henry
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hain, Edward
Hall, Edward Marshall
Hamilton,RtHnLordG.(Mid'x
Hamilton,Marq.of(L'nd'nd'rry
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris,F.Leverton(Tynem'uth
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Jas. (Staffords., N.W.)
Helder, Augustus
Henderson, Alexander
Hermon-Hodge, Robert T.
Hope,J.F. (Shef'ld, Brightside
Howard,Cap.J(Kent,Faversh.
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Knowles, Lees
Lawrence, William F.
Lawson, John Grant
Lee,Cap.A.H.(Hants,Fareh'm
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leighton, Stanley
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Rt. Hon. W. (Bristol, S.
Loyd, Archie Kirkman

Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmo'th
Macartney, Rt. Hn. W. G. E.
Macdona, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool
M'Calmont, Col. J. (Antrim, E.)
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (Edinb., W.)
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Milner, Rt. Hn. Sir Frederick G.
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morgan, David J. (Walthamst.)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham (Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donal Ninian
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Percy, Earl
Plummer, Walter R,
Pretyman, Ernest George
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Rentoul, James Alexander
Renwick, George
Ridley, Hon. M. W (Stalybridge
Ridley, S. Forde (Bethnal Green
Ritchie, Rt Hn. Chas. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W.
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler. Col. Samuel Alexander
Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (Renfrew)
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, H. C (N'th'mb, Tyneside)
Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.
Spear, John Ward
Spencer, Ernest (W. Bromwich)
Stanley, Hon Arthur (Ormskirk
Stanley, Edward Jas. (Somerset
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stroyan, John
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Rt Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Uni.)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Wm. E. Murray
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Wason, John C. (Orkney)
Webb, Col. William George
Welby, Lt-Col A. C. E (Taunton)
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset)
Wills, Sir Frederick
Wilson, A. S. (Stanley, E. R.)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd, W. H. (Yorks.)
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

Tellers for the Noes—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

Original Question put, and agreed to.

Resolutions to be reported.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £110,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for Stationery, Printing, Paper, Binding, and Printed Books for the Public Service."

Mr. FLYNN said that during the course of the discussion on these Supplementary Estimates they had had very extravagant sums to deal with; but the sum now asked for was sufficient to take away the breath of an ordinary Member of the House of Commons. A sum of £110,000 was asked for printing and binding books. One would have thought that all the books in the British Museum could have been printed and bound for that sum. It was time to realise the condition of things to which the House of Commons had been reduced under the present Administration. Apparently the war was to be made the scapegoat for every extravagance, possible and impossible. It was to be made the excuse for Supplementary Estimates absolutely without precedent. He defied the Chancellor of the Exchequer or the Financial Secretary to the Treasury to furnish a precedent for Supplementary Estimates of such magnitude as they were now considering. They had only recently discussed a Vote of over £17,000 for telegrams, which, however, might be accounted for by the high rates charged for telegrams to South Africa and West Africa; but, in his opinion, it was a most extravagant demand on the common sense of the country to ask for £110,000 for such a comparatively inexpensive article as paper, which, in the present days of cheap production, could be produced for a moderate sum. Was the Committee to be merely a body for registering the decrees of the Government? Ten years ago the Estimates were diligently, conscientiously, and carefully examined, but the House of Commons now had reached such a parlous condition—partly owing to the manner in which the Opposition had abrogated its functions as the guardian of the rights of the taxpayer—that all the Committee appeared able to do was to cheerfully vote the sums asked for by the Government. In the Vote before the Committee the amount asked for for printing for public departments was £233,000, the original Estimate being £216.000. That was an increase of £17,000. The next item—paper for public departments—showed an increase of £53,000, which certainly called for an explanation from the Secretary of the Treasury, without which he hoped the Committee would not have to vote it. He recognised that a somewhat exceptional condition of things existed, and that a demand had been made on the public service which would not have been made in ordinary circumstances, but he could not understand how a Supplementary Estimate should be so excessive as to be a fifth of the original Estimate, especially when such a comparatively cheap article as paper was concerned. The item for binding showed an increase of £8,500, although there was no information as to whether wages had increased. One of the disadvantages of the present position was that in previous Parliaments there was a Secretary to the Treasury who was competent to fill the position, and who had some knowledge of accounts. That position was now filled by a Minister, if he might call him so, who, from the condition of things, was a neophyte and an amateur, and could not give any explanation as to why the Estimates had been so extravagantly increased. He thought the Committee were entitled to something more than the scant courtesy and the bald explanation which had been given on previous Votes. He did not suppose there was any increase in the cost of material or labour, and surely there could not be such an enormous increase in the consumption of paper. An increase of £110,000 might be a small matter to hon. Members opposite, who displayed only the smallest interest in the Estimates, and many of whom could not tell the difference between a Supplementary and an ordinary Estimate, but hon. Members from Ireland were very much concerned in the swollen Estimates which had been presented, and also in the unsatisfactory manner in which they had been submitted to the Committee. He trusted that they would have a satisfactory explanation from the Treasury as to how such an enormous increase had been incurred.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.) said he thought that such a large increase required more explanation than was given on the Paper. The only explanation on the Paper was that the large increase was caused by the war, but the war was going on when the original Estimate was prepared. Why was not provision then made for the stationery required in South Africa, and if such provision were made how was it possible that such a large increase in the Estimate was now necessary? This Supplementary Estimate suggested to him what he thought was really the explanation of all the increased Votes they were considering. He believed that they had not had fair Estimates presented to them at the beginning of the financial year, and that every Estimate was squeezed in order to make up for the cost of the war.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I think there is one point which might give rise to misapprehension unless I deal with it at once. This is a Vote for the Stationery Office, but the whole of it is not required for articles ordinarily included in this Vote. Provision was made for the war when the original Estimate was framed, but the hon. Member for West Islington forgets, when he suggests that the war was in progress when we made the original Estimate, that that Estimate was framed in the last months of 1899, when it could not be anticipated that the war would last so long, and no one can therefore be surprised that the provision which was then made for what is called stationery has proved insufficient for a war which is still going on. There are other items in the Vote which are not connected with the war, and which could not have been foreseen when the original Vote was framed. For instance, the Estimate was framed on the assumption that the census paper would be of the same quality as was used at the last census, but the Registrar General represented that a better class of paper would be required.

MR. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.): Would the hon. Gentleman say how much of the increase is due to the better census paper?

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: Yes, Sir; £600. If I may give another instance, I would mention the new forms of discharge required in the mercantile marine. The Stationery Office has to supply the demands of the other offices. I understand that a book instead of a loose paper is now required for the better protection of the mercantile marine, and that accounts for a sum of £1,300 of the extra Supplementary Estimate. I only mention these facts to show how the Estimate is made up, and also to show that these sums are sums which the Stationery Office could not have refused. With regard to the war, an enormous supply of paper is required for packing purposes as well as for stationery. There has been an increased expenditure for stationery in the ordinary sense of the word, and there has also been an increased demand for books of various kinds required on military service, as well as an increase in the printing for the Army in consequence of its increased size. Up to 1899 the War Office itself supplied all the paper it required for packing purposes, but since then the Stationery Office has been called upon to supply it. The items I have mentioned, and other items of a similar kind, account for the increased Vote, and I think there is very little in it that could have been foreseen. I cannot therefore accept the blame which the hon. Member for West Islington casts on the Stationery Office for not having foreseen this expenditure.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE said the Vote gave him an opportunity of raising a question which he had long been anxious to raise, but which he was unable to bring forward before owing to the peculiar way in which the Estimate had been presented in recent years. Ireland would have to pay a large proportion of the Vote, and he should like to know what value she was to get for her money. He should like to ask the Secretary for the Treasury where the paper provided for in this Vote came from? He had seen some specimens of the paper on which the War Office did their correspondence, and certainly it could not be much worse. He did not know whether it was made in Germany, but it was extraordinarily bad paper. He wished to know whether any of the paper purchased by the Stationery Office was made in Ireland, and whether Irish firms were given any facilities for tendering for contracts for paper. Extraordinarily good paper was made in Ireland. He did not know whether the paper used in the House of Commons was of Irish manufacture, but certainly quite as good paper was made in that country. He should like to receive an assurance from the hon. Gentleman that if Irish contractors had not been given an opportunity of tendering in the past, such opportunity would be given to them in the future. With reference to binding, that was one of the few arts still preserved in Ireland, and he would make the same request with regard to that. It seemed to him that a certain amount of the public expenditure such as was mentioned in the Estimate might be spent in Ireland with great advantage.

MR. TULLY said he thought that the Secretary to the Treasury when he was explaining the Vote forgot that the total Estimate for 1900–1 was over £600,000, whereas the Estimate for 1889–9 was only £498,000. There had therefore been an increase of over £100,000, exclusive of the increase which had been put down to the war. The total amount now to be voted for printing and stationery was nearly three-quarters of a million. When the President of the Board of Agriculture was Secretary to the Treasury, he boasted in 1898 that he had reduced the figures for that year by £50,000, but instead of any decrease being effected in the present year there was an increase of £110,000, without any adequate explanation. The hon. Gentleman said that the Stationery Office was getting a better class of paper, but the better quality of paper had not fluctuated very much in price. It was the cheaper qualities of paper that were affected by the war. The war interfered with wood pulp paper, because steamers were taken for transport purposes, and also because there was a rise in the price of chemicals. When the President of the Board of Agriculture was Secretary to the Treasury, he went direct to the mills instead of going to contractors, but he could not get any tenders from the mills, because they were warned that if they tendered they would be boycotted by the contractors. Owing to transactions such as that, the Government were unable to obtain paper from the mills, with the result that £110,000 had to be added to the Estimates in one year. When the President of the Board of Agriculture was striving to reduce these enormous figures, all sorts of difficulties were put in his way. He attempted to get the reporting of the House of Commons done cheaper, and the plan was adopted of slinging a cheap contract at his head. He went in for getting a low tender, and got a very bad contractor, who made a complete mess of the printing and publishing the debates of the House. By that means discredit was sought to be cast on the President of the Board of Agriculture bcause of his efforts to reduce the expenditure of the Stationery Office. He thought some explanation should have been given as to why £110,000 had to be added to the original Estimate. Information should also be given as to who were the contractors for the supply of stationery used in the public Departments. Had the hon. Gentleman the present Secretary to the Treasury attempted to follow in the footsteps of his predecessor? Did he go to the mills for paper; and if he went to the mills, did he secure tenders; and if he did not, did not that prove that the ring which existed in the old days still existed? Although nearly three-quarters of a million was expended in printing and stationery, if the public wanted a Blue-book an almost prohibitive price was put upon it. A Blue-book which now cost 6s. could, if produced in a sufficient quantity, be obtained for 3d. or 4d. If the hon. Gentleman would put Blue-books at a low price on the market, the result would prove very remunerative. A daily newspaper might cost £1,000 to produce, but it was sold at a 1d. or ½d., whereas the Vote Office put on a Blue-book the price they thought it cost to produce. They sold perhaps 500 books at one shilling, whereas if they offered 1,000 or 1,500 books at 6d. they would realise a substantial profit. He asked the hon. Gentleman whether he would not go in for such a system. He did not think there was any justification for the enormous increase now asked for. The better quality of paper used had very little to do with it, and if the money was not spent on paper, did it go as wages? The rate of wages for compositors had not increased in London. On the contrary, an effort was made to reduce it, and therefore no part of the increase went to the working man. He noticed that "Small Stores" were responsible for £29,000 of the increase. It was very convenient in drawing up an Estimate to cloak a lot of things under the title of "Small Stores." He did not think such an item could justify an increased expenditure of £29,000. Then there was an increase of £1,000 for parchment, and an increase of £53,000 for paper. He could not accept such items.

It being midnight, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Resolutions to be reported upon Monday next; Committee also report Progress; to sit again upon Monday next.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR.

MR. FLAVIN: Can the right hon. Gentleman say whether there is any truth in the report published in an evening paper that Lord Kitchener has been captured by De Wet?

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Sir WILLIAM WALROND, Devonshire, Tiverton): I have heard nothing about it.

Adjourned at three minutes after
Twelve of the clock till
Monday next.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Monday, 4th March, 1901.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with:—

Omagh Gas [H.L.].
Royal Exchange Assurance [H.L.].
Faversham Water [H.L.].
Sheffield District Railway [H.L.].
Cardiff Railway [H.L.].
Nitrate Railways Company [H.L.].
Rhymney and Aber Valleys Gas and Water [H.L.].

The same were ordered to lie on the Table.

SOUTH LANCASHIRE TRAMWAYS BILL [H.L].

Presented; read 1^a; and referred to the Examiners.

WATFORD AND DISTRICT TRAMWAYS BILL [H.L.].

WIGAN CORPORATION TRAMWAYS BILL [H.L.].

Presented, and read 1^a.

PORTMADOC, BEDDGELERT, AND SOUTH SNOWDON RAILWAY BILL [H.L.].

STRATTON AND BUDE GAS BILL [H.L.].

Read 2^a.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

ECCLESIASTICAL COMMISSION.

Fifty-third Report from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England; with an appendix. Presented [by Command], and ordered to lie on the Table.

UNIVERSITIES (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1889.

Abstract of Accounts for the University of Glasgow for the year ended 30th September, 1900, being the Annual Report on the State of the Finances of the University under the provisions of Section 30 of the Act.

INCLOSURE, ETC., EXPENSES ACT, 1868.

Fees to be taken in respect of transactions under the Agricultural Holdings Acts, 1883 to 1900, in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

COMMONS ACT, 1876.

Reports by the Board of Agriculture upon an application for—

1. A provisional Order for the inclosure of the open fields and the heath and wastes in the parish of Sutton, in the county of Northampton.

2. Provisional Orders for the regulation of the common and for the inclosure of the open fields respectively, at Skipwith, in the East Riding of the county of York.

MILITIA ACT, 1882 (DEPUTY LIEUTENANTS).

Returns of descriptions of qualifications of Deputy Lieutenants, lodged during 1900, as furnished to the Chief Secretary for Ireland.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

NAVAL MANŒUVRES AND MERCHANT SHIPPING.

LORD MUSKERRY: I wish to ask the noble Earl the First Lord of the Admiralty if he is quite sure as to the correctness of the answer he gave to a question I put to him on Thursday last.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (The Earl of SELBORNE): I stated in answer to the noble Lord on Thursday last that the Admiralty had had no communication of any sort from the Merchant Service Guild before October of last year on the subject which the noble Lord brought before the House. That was a mistake. A communication had been received in April.

LIGHT LOAD-LINE BILL [H.L.].

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

*LORD MUSKERRY: My Lords, this is the third time the question of the

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

under-ballasting of ships has been before your Lordships' House. On the two former occasions, in February, 1898,† I went very fully into the subject, and gave instances of vessels that were nearly lost, and one that was lost, for want of sufficient ballast. I also read to your Lordships a number of letters, or extracts from letters, from captains of ships, all setting forth the great danger of under-ballasting. I have received a great number of letters since from captains on the same subject and to the same effect. They point out the great danger that is run, and how very helpless an unballasted ship is in bad weather. They also give a number of cases where the vessels have been lost or severe damage done, and refer to the very narrow escapes of others—all due to the want of sufficient ballast. In short, the universal opinion amongst ship captains is that they are far safer in an overladen vessel than in one that is underladen, as in the former case the ship is at least under command, while in the latter case they are completely helpless and can do nothing.

While the Board of Trade is quite satisfied with the competency of these captains to command their ships and to take charge of lives and of an immense amount of very valuable property, yet they treat their opinions on this subject with contempt, and attach no importance to them. Therefore, my Lords, it would be useless for me to take up your time by reading—with the exception of two—any more extracts from their letters; but I would remind your Lordships that an underladen vessel is not only in danger herself, but is a great source of danger to others. Masters of cross-channel steamers, both in the English and Irish Channels, have told me how utterly helpless these underballasted vessels are in bad weather, and how, when meeting such vessels, they have to take special care to give them a very wide berth. I will give your Lordships some opinions from other sources that may have more weight with the Board of Trade, though I think that the opinions of the captains who have handled these ships and seen their behaviour in all sorts and conditions of weather are most valuable and deserving of the highest consideration.

I will commence by giving the opinion of a shipbuilder. At a meeting of the Institute of Naval Architects, held on 21st July, 1899, under the presidency of Sir Edward J. Reed, K.C.B., M.P., Mr. G. B. Hunter (an eminent shipbuilder), in the course of a paper on "Large Atlantic Cargo Steamers," stated that—

> "It is recorded in Lloyd's list that 173 steamships were disabled in 1898, mostly in the Atlantic, through failure of shafting. It is stated that fifty-three similar accidents occurred in April, May, and June of this year (1899). This can, I think, be regarded as highly unsatisfactory. The cause usually assigned for these accidents is the practice of steaming outwards from European to American ports in ballast, and generally with very insufficient ballast."

In the discussion which followed there was a consensus of opinion in favour of Mr. Hunter's remarks, Colonel Swan, another eminent shipbuilder, stating that he was quite in accord with the general conclusions of Mr. Hunter, particularly so in reference to the ballasting of large ships. It had, he said, always been a surprise to him that shipowners and underwriters had been content for so long to allow vessels to be sent across the Atlantic so insufficiently ballasted. As a need generally produces a remedy, so in this case Mr. McGlashan's ballast tanks and Captain Chaddock's patent hatch have been brought out to enable vessels to take sufficient ballast at a comparatively small cost. I hear that some modern vessels have been fitted with these tanks, and give great satisfaction. I now come to the underwriters. The following is a letter I have received from the Secretary of Lloyd's—

> "The Committee of Lloyd's have heard with pleasure that your Lordship is about to introduce the Light Load-line Bill into the House of Lords, and the Committee request me to assure you of their approval of the principle of the Bill, which is evidently called for by the number of vessels which the Committee have to declare as missing, involving sometimes a heavy loss of life. The Committee trust that the proposed Bill may meet with the support which it undoubtedly deserves."

The Secretary of the Liverpool Underwriters' Association sends the following communication—

> "This matter was considered by my committee to-day, and I am instructed to say that

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† See *The Parliamentary Debates* [Fourth Series], Vol. liii., pages 615 and 1506.

Lord Muskerry.

they consider that the losses arising from vessels sailing with insufficient and improperly secured ballast are so serious as to warrant legislation on the subject, and they cordially approve the principle embodied in Lord Muskerry's Light Load-line Bill."

I will now quote the opinion given by Sir Edward Reed, who was at one time Constructor to the Royal Navy. He stated that the only vessel he ever owned was lost through the neglect of the managers in sending her round the coast with insufficient ballast. Another naval architect, Mr. H. B. Wortley, in the course of a very interesting paper read before the Shipping Masters' and Officers' Society on the subject of "Ballasting," said—

> "It is quite impossible to dwell too forcibly upon the evils of sending ships to sea insufficiently immersed, and the disasters of the past winter have been quite sufficient alone to emphasise this. The under-load-line record for 1898, as published by the *Syren*, represents a mass of human life and capital at stake which is appalling in its immensity."

From a captain's letter just recently written, in making a passage across the Atlantic Ocean, I quote the following—

> "I trust that the Light Load-line Bill will very shortly be an accomplished fact. Here I am with no ballast, except the ordinary water ballast and just sufficient coal to take me to my destination, rolling rails under, and with a beam wind, just going to leeward like a mere balloon on the water, our draft being 11ft. 6in. It is enough to give one softening of the brain. Perhaps you think I have it for coming, but the precious dollar has to be earned."

I do not think that any one of your Lordships would like to have been in that vessel; and I may say that all under-ballasted vessels behave in exactly the same way. Here is a letter I have received from another captain—

> "When acting as chief officer of the S.S. 'Rutherglen' whilst in ballast, to save her from going on the Lizards we had to keep her going full speed astern for about six hours, the vessel being totally unmanageable. Also, when master of the S.S. 'Drummond' in ballast, bound from the Continent to Barry, the vessel could not be handled, and in endeavouring to round the Land's End we had to put back to Falmouth no less than three times."

The Institute of Marine Engineers has lately devoted two or three meetings to the consideration of this question. It involves no disrespect to the Institute to say that among its members there is a diversity of opinion as to the relative importance of the several causes which tend to produce shaft failure. On one point, however, there appears to be pretty general agreement, and that is that an increase both in the size and durability of the shaft is not necessarily a guarantee of safety when vessels are persistently driven across the Atlantic with insufficient ballast.

Now, my Lords, I will take the opinion of two of His Majesty's judges. Mr. Justice Barnes, dealing with a case that came before him, said—

> "Nearly every salvage case which we get now is owing to the breakage of the propeller."

Mr. Justice Phillimore said—

> "There is nothing more dangerous to life and property than this practice of sending vessels on winter voyages in these northern seas without ballast, and if the owners had to pay he was not at all sorry, and if the underwriters had to pay it was their own fault for incurring such risks."

These are the views of two judges who have had a good deal of opportunity of entering into these matters. My noble friend the Earl of Dudley, when replying to me on a former occasion, stated that the Board of Trade surveyors had full power to detain any ship that was insufficiently ballasted. That may be so, but how are they to judge unless they have some guide, such as this Bill proposes? You would surely not expect these surveyors to go on board a ship just before sailing and make an intricate calculation as to the depth the vessel should be immersed to be safe. Do you think they will take that responsibility? I venture to say they will not, and you cannot blame them for refusing. When I spoke on this subject in February, 1898, I asked if the Board of Trade was going to wait till some vessel was lost from want of sufficient ballast before they took action. I will now quote some of the casualties from the official reports of the Board of Trade. In the case of the "Nonpareil" the court of inquiry held at the Town Hall, Westminster, December last, stated that the vessel was not prematurely abandoned, and that the cause of her loss was that she was insufficiently ballasted to withstand the weather she encountered; no lives were lost by this casualty, the crew being picked up by the "Glengoil."

"Report No. 5882.—The ship 'Midas,' lost with all hands, numbering twenty-two, on a voyage from Nagasaki to Portland, Oregon, the Court being of opinion that she was insufficiently and improperly ballasted for the voyage."

"Report No. 104.—The ship 'Celtic Bard,' which disappeared with all hands, numbering twenty-six, on a passage from Hong Kong to Vancouver, British Columbia. Captain A. Cunninghame, the inspector appointed by the Board of Trade, stated that she was not sufficiently and properly ballasted."

"Report No. 5971.—SS. 'Albion,' stranded in Carnarvon Bay, on or about the 11th November, 1899. The Court of Inquiry, held at West Hartlepool, stated that the vessel was not sufficiently and properly ballasted when she left Holyhead on the 9th November last "

"Report No. 106.—The ship 'Laurel Bank,' disappeared with all hands, numbering 29, on a passage from Shanghai to Portland, Oregon. Captain A. Cunninghame, the inspector appointed by the Board of Trade, stated that he was of opinion that the ship had not sufficient ballast when she left Shanghai."

"Report No. 6007. — SS. 'Ardbanhan,' stranded and a total loss, on the 7th February, 1900, half a mile south of Souter Point, County Durham. The Court stated that on her leaving Gravesend on the 5th February she was not at that time properly and sufficiently ballasted and in good seaworthy trim for a voyage."

"Report No. 107.—Ship 'Caradoc,' disappeared with all hands, numbering thirty, on a passage from Kobe, Japan, to Port Angeles, U.S.A. The inspector, Captain A. Cunninghame, stated that he was of opinion that there was not a sufficient quantity of ballast on board the vessel."

"Report No. 6023.—SS. 'Ethiopia,' stranded on the 23rd February, 1900, at Oxwich, in the Bristol Channel, whereby she substained damage. The Court of Inquiry, held on the 22nd March, at Cardiff, states: 'For the weather actually experienced on the voyage, commencing at Hamburg on the 17th February and terminating by the stranding of the vessel on the 23rd February, her ballasting appears to have been sufficient; but if instead of fine weather and smooth sea the vessel had encountered such adverse conditions of weather as might reasonably be expected for such a voyage in February, the ballasting would have probably proved insufficient and a source of danger.'"

"Report No. 112.—'Dominion,' sailed from Honolulu for Royal Roads, Vancouver, British Columbia, on the 19th January, 1899, with a crew of thirty hands and has not since been heard of. The inspector (Captain A. Cunninghame) appointed by the Board of Trade, in his report after the inquiry held by him, stated that: 'I am of opinion that she was not properly and sufficiently ballasted,' and further on states, 'having regard therefore to the quantity of ballast and the trim in which the "Dominion" was when she left Honolulu, as inferred from the evidence placed before me, I am of opinion that she was not in a safe condition for encountering bad weather.'"

"Report No. 111.—'Perseverance,' left Probolingo, Java, on the 20th February, 1900, for Newcastle, New South Wales, with a crew of twenty-eight hands, all told, and has not since been heard of. The inspector (Captain William Erskine) appointed by the Board of Trade, in his report to them after the inquiry, stated that the ballast was not sufficient in quantity to immerse the vessel so as to ensure her safe handling in a seaway in violent squalls, or in heavy weather.'"

There are also at the present moment four ships—the "Andrada," the "Bertha," the "Cape Wrath," and the "Rathdown"—who sailed in ballast, and are long overdue, and still missing. My noble friend will doubtless point out to me that most of these ships sailed from foreign ports. That is quite true, but had they been marked as this Bill proposes, it would have been a guide to the masters in the same way as the present deep-load mark is, and the ships would have gone to sea properly ballasted. One hundred and sixty-five lives have been lost, and how many perhaps in the four ships that are missing now! Who is responsible? I say the Board of Trade. I do not wish to impute any blame to my noble friend. He does not give his own views on these matters, but speaks for the body he so ably represents in your Lordships' House. In all the dealings I have had with him on this and kindred subjects he has always shown the greatest courtesy and kindness, and I am sure that personally he would be only too anxious and willing to do all in his power to further the interests of the mercantile marine. Other officers of the Board of Trade in private life I am sure are very estimable gentlemen, but taking the Board of Trade as a concrete body, I say it is morally guilty of the manslaughter of these 165 people. Had the Board of Trade accepted three years ago my proposal to place this light load-line mark on ships, in all human probability these lives would not have been lost. If a fair proportion of these unfortunate people had been passengers, the press of the country would have rung with the disasters, the Government would have been asked why ships were allowed to go to sea in so unseaworthy a condition, and the Board of Trade themselves would have been forced by pressure of public opinion to introduce a similar measure—perhaps a much stronger one—to the one now before your Lordships. Can I, can anyone, bring forward stronger or more convincing arguments in favour of this Bill than those 165 poor creatures who have gone to what I may call a nameless grave for want of it? They were not passengers whose names would have been published and their loss commented upon; they were only sailors earning their living. Who knows their names? The Register of Shipping should, I think, have a list of the crews, the friends they left behind, the wives and children who were dependent on some of them for their daily bread. Would you, my Lords, or would the general public outside shipping circles, ever have heard of these deaths if the matter had not been brought before your Lordships' House? It is terrible to think how much sorrow, how much misery has been brought about for the want of a simple precaution. I am sure the noble Lord who represents the shipowners will not now oppose this Bill. I cannot believe that they would ever dream of putting pecuniary interest in the balance against human life. At the best of times a sailor's life is a hard one; the unavoidable risks he has to run are many and great; but when we find a great danger that is avoidable by legislating for it, surely it is our duty to do so. I earnestly hope you will pass the Second Reading of this Bill. It is a much-needed and urgent measure, and by doing so you will earn the gratitude of the whole seafaring community. I beg to move the Second Reading of the Bill.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2^{a}."—(*Lord Muskerry.*)

*LORD HENEAGE: My Lords, I rise to move the motion standing in my name for the rejection of this Bill. The noble Lord has given the House various statistics, but I would warn your Lordships against accepting them without careful examination. I will take one list as an example—the list which is published in the *Syren*, and a copy of which was, I believe, sent to every one of your Lordships. In that list it is asserted that 185 ships were lost principally through want of ballast and injury to shaft; but of those 185 cases, 95 were foreign ships, to which neither the Act of 1894 nor the present Bill could possibly apply, so that they must be deducted. That reduces the number of ships to 90, or one-half per cent. of the 20,209 vessels on the British Register in the Registrar General's return for 1899. But that is not all, because the noble Lord's Bill is directed to casualties to the shaft. Out of the total of 185, 35 of the casualties or damages are described as due to broken propellers and not broken shafts, and I am informed that nearly every steamer afloat carries a spare propeller. I hope, therefore, that your Lordships will not allow these statistics to weigh with you in considering this Bill. I have thought it right to explain them after the inferences drawn by the noble Lord.

*LORD MUSKERRY: The statistics are from the official reports of the Board of Trade.

*LORD HENEAGE: I submit that the Bill is unnecessary; that the settlement of the load-line question in 1894, after most careful inquiry by a committee of experts presided over by Sir Edward Reed, is working satisfactorily, and that the proposal in the Bill is utterly impracticable. The noble Lord does not fix the place where the light load-line is to be, except in vague and general terms, but this is the very essence of his proposal. The noble Lord leaves the level to the Board of Trade. I doubt if my noble friend who represents that Department will show due gratitude for his confidence, but I will leave him to deal with that point. The load-line was fixed by the Merchant Shipping Act of 1894. The sections dealing with this question are from 436 to 445 inclusive, but Sections 437 and 438 have alone any connection with this Bill. Section 437 relates to the marking of deck-lines, and enacts that every British merchant ship over eighty tons shall be permanently and conspicuously marked with lines—in this Act called deck-lines—of not less than twelve inches in length and one inch in breadth, painted longitudinally on each side amidships, or as near thereto as is practicable, and indicating the position of each deck which is above water. There are other directions as to colour and position of the deck-lines, which are to be white or yellow on a dark ground and black on a light ground. Section 438 deals with the marking of the load-line under the special direction of the Board of Trade as to the level and position of the disc. The owner of the vessel before proceeding to sea—

> "shall mark upon each of her sides amidships, within the meaning of Section 437, or as near thereto as practicable, in white or yellow on a dark ground, or in black on a light ground, a circular disc 12 inches in diameter, with an horizontal line 18 inches in length down through its centre."

Your Lordships will therefore observe that the load-line is essentially different from the deck-lines in Section 437, which are for an entirely different object and must not be confused with the load-line. But what is the proposal of the Bill? The noble Lord by his Bill proposes to add a second load-line to be called the "light load-line" identical with the present load-line, but marked on every vessel within the meaning of the Act of 1894 below the deck-lines prescribed by the Act. This, we say, is absolutely unnecessary, and it is not only an addition to but a revolution of the law, and would create confusion and hardship to British shipowners without reasonable cause. The present law has worked, we contend, satisfactorily.

If the responsible Department of the Board of Trade consider legislation necessary, let them legislate. I think the noble Lord has failed to show any necessity for the introduction of the Bill, and I deny that vessels are sent to sea so light as to be in a dangerous condition. I am sure we all desire to give the noble Lord every credit for his good intentions, with the object of saving life and property at sea; but we ask your Lordships to pause before you disturb the well-considered settlement of the load-line laws in 1894 without any apparent necessity whatever. Even if the Bill passed it would only apply to British shipowners, and thus handicap them still further in competition with foreign vessels. We urge that it would be most unfair to harass the trade because less than one-half per cent. of the registered British vessels have met with accidents to their shafts, especially when Lloyd's Register in 1900 made amendments in their rules with a view of reducing the number of accidents to shafts in British vessels.

Where does the noble Lord propose to place his minimum or light load-line? According to him it is to be placed at the minimum depth to which a vessel may be navigated under any circumstances. Therefore it must be placed in a position suitable for vessels being moved in ballast along the coast; the same line has to do for a voyage across the Atlantic and also when vessels are going in ballast round Cape Horn. It does not require to be a seaman to know that under those varying circumstances the immersion would differ. I will leave the noble Earl who represents the Board of Trade to defend that Department from the attack that has been made upon it. That is not part of my duty. But I venture to say, on behalf of shipowners, that they believe the Bill to be absolutely unnecessary and impracticable, and that it would prove a delusion and a snare if it became an Act of Parliament. For these reasons I move the rejection of the Bill.

Moved, to leave out "now," and insert at the end of the motion "this day six months."—(*The Lord Heneage.*)

THE EARL OF GLASGOW: My Lords, I beg to associate myself with the noble Lord who has just spoken, and to second the motion for the rejection of the Bill. The Bill was moved in a very able speech by the noble Lord, who spoke in a very sympathetic manner with regard to the difficulties and the dangers which seamen have to encounter. As a sailor myself, I agree with a great deal he said, but I think the noble Lord fell into the not uncommon error of rather overstating his case. When he spoke so forcibly and strongly upon the loss of life which occurs through vessels being under-ballasted, he did not tell you how very small is the number of ships that are lost under those circumstances. I am informed that of all the vessels that went to sea in the year 1900, only one-half per cent. suffered any casualties through being under-ballasted.

There are other considerations which move me to oppose this Bill. It must be remembered that none of the great shipping companies send their vessels to sea under-ballasted. This condition of things obtains chiefly in connection with ships of the tramp class, that wander round the world trying to get a cargo and have great difficulty in making both ends meet. It is on the owners of these ships that the hardships would fall if this Bill passed. The result would be that the ships would have to be sold, and would probably fall into the hands of foreign nations. Under the new orders of the Board of Trade certificates are not given to vessels that are not equipped with much stronger propellers and shafts than used to be allowed, and, in addition to that regulation, there are new methods of providing water-ballast. This is being adopted in all new vessels, and will render such accidents as have occurred hitherto less likely in the future. Therefore I think the evils to which the noble Lord has referred will gradually diminish as time goes on. We must remember that to shipowners, perhaps more so than to any other class, time is money, and that the time that would be lost by them in taking in ballast to go from port to port would be precious time. British shipowners would be handicapped in their competition with foreign shipowners if this Bill passed, and I therefore trust that your Lordships will refuse to give it a Second Reading.

*LORD KELVIN: My Lords, unless stronger arguments are put before the House than those we have already heard, it does appear to me that an exceedingly strong case has been made out in favour of the Bill. I cannot see any of the difficulties which have been described nor how the Bill can possibly be injurious to British shipmasters. I know it is urged against it that it will apply only to British-owned ships, and that foreign shipowners will be allowed with impunity to risk the safety of their ships and the lives of those on board by not complying with the conditions which this Bill seeks to impose. That appears to me no argument at all. The Bill gives a simple provision, and one which cannot be inconvenient or expensive, or cause the detention of any ship which ought not to be detained, but which will make British ships and the lives of those on board safer than they would be without such legislation. That is, in my opinion, a very strong reason for passing it; unless we hear something satisfactory from the noble Lord who represents the Board of Trade in this House, in respect to official action, to secure the objects for which the Bill is intended.

We are told that there is a very strong wish that there should be no alteration in the present load-line law. It does not seem to me that any good reason for wishing no change in the present law has been submitted to your Lordships' House. The deep load-line mark was carried after much opposition. We all remember how the Plimsoll load-line was opposed, but we are now assured that it has proved most beneficial. In my opinion, if this Bill is carried it also will prove beneficial. What possible confusion can there be between two marks, even if they are of the same shape and colour—one for the deep load-line and the other for the light load-line? I intend to support the Bill unless I hear arguments which convince me that it ought not to be supported.

THE EARL OF DUNRAVEN: My Lords, I came down to the House with a perfectly unprejudiced mind on this question, but it occurs to me that the opposition to this Bill is illogical. In my opinion, the arguments which were adduced by the noble Lord who moved the Second Reading have not been at all answered by my noble friend who moved the rejection of the Bill. I can quite understand the arguments which were used against the Plimsoll line and which were directed against any interference with the liberty of shipmasters to do what they liked with their ships, or the arguments which were adduced against the danger of interfering with and adding difficulties to the competition of British shipowners with the owners of foreign vessels. But as the Legislature have thought it wise to protect seamen against the dangers of overloading, it seems perfectly logical and equally necessary to protect them against the dangers they incur by the ship being insufficiently ballasted. I do not pretend to say whether the Bill in its details is workable or not. The noble Lord opposite (Lord Heneage) said that confusion would arise on account of the two discs. That is a matter of detail; but I think it would be perfectly easy to place the marks in such a way as not to cause inconvenience. Unless I hear stronger arguments against it, I shall certainly support the Bill.

THE SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF TRADE (The Earl of DUDLEY): My Lords, I do not suppose that the House is desirous that this debate should be prolonged very much longer, as I know that some anxiety may be evinced to get on to the next item upon the Paper. But as this is a matter which comes under the purview of the Board of Trade, and as considerable reference has been made by noble Lords who have already spoken to the attitude previously adopted by the Board of Trade, I hope that I may be excused if I take up the attention of the House for a few minutes in this connection.

I may say at once that those who have looked into this matter at the Board of Trade are of opinion that at the present time there is no necessity for legislation upon the lines of this Bill. I venture to say, as a general principle, that legislation of this kind, which seeks to impose an arbitrary restriction upon a great industry like the shipping industry, and which is at any rate opposed by a large proportion of those who carry on that industry and who own ships, can only be justified if a very strong case is made out in its favour and if it is shown that considerable loss of life has occurred from the present state of things. My noble friend who introduced this Bill told the House that at the present time a great number of accidents occur to the machinery of vessels owing to those vessels being insufficiently immersed in the water. He quoted a few cases of accidents, which I shall refer to presently. I wish that he had told us how many vessels, in his opinion, suffer accident in the course of the year from reasons of this kind. I believe that the number, if you compare it with the total accidents to our shipping, is not large. A list has been circulated, to which reference has already been made, giving the number of accidents to the machinery of steam vessels during 1900 as 185. I am quite prepared, as a basis of argument, to take that figure as correct; but I would, in the first place, point out that, even if 185 vessels did suffer accident to their machinery last year through this cause—which I do not admit—it only constitutes about a half per cent. of the total of the world's shipping. Therefore the evil, looked at from the worst point of view, is not a great one, and it cannot be said that it is, at any rate up to now, of great pressing importance.

I would go further. I would say that, even if these accidents to machinery take place, what my noble friend has to prove is that considerable risk or even loss of life occurs from the present state of things. I would submit to the House that accidents to machinery do not in themselves constitute a ground for legislation. Of course, if it can be shown that those accidents result in loss of life, or even considerable risk to life, then no doubt Parliament would only be following many precedents in dealing with the matter, but until this can be shown the question is one which concerns owners, underwriters, and engineers much more than your Lordships' House.

I would call attention for a moment to the list to which reference has been made. We hear that 185 steamers suffered accident last year through the failure of their propelling machinery; but of those 185 cases thirty-seven are recorded as having lost their propellers. I am informed that if a vessel loses its propeller it does not at all follow that it is due to any excessive strain upon the machinery. A vessel may lose her propeller from many causes, even a fully laden vessel. So common a type of accident is it that nearly all vessels now carry an extra propeller in order to guard against that contingency. Therefore I do not think those who support this Bill can say that accidents of this character are due to the absence of legislation of this kind. If we eliminate these thirty-seven cases, there remain 148 steamers which suffered accident last year principally of the kind known as tail-shaft breakages. A large proportion, however, of these ships were foreigners, and, as has already been pointed out, we cannot, of course, touch foreign vessels. Deducting the foreigners, we have only to consider the case of seventy-six British vessels which suffered accident to their machinery last year from this cause.

Two questions, therefore, arise in connection with these seventy-six vessels—firstly, were the accidents due to under-ballasting; and, secondly, did those accidents involve risk to life? With regard to the first point, what we are told is that at the present time ships in ballast go to sea so light that when they encounter heavy weather the propeller comes out of the water, the engines race, and the consequent strain upon the machinery is so great that in many cases the tail-shaft breaks. My noble friend who introduced this Bill seems to think that the Board of Trade takes up a contemptuous attitude with regard to opinion upon this subject. I can assure him that since this subject was brought forward two or three years ago I have taken all the advice I could get about it. I have consulted not only the professional member of the Marine Department of the Board of Trade, who is himself a seaman of considerable experience, but also the surveying officers around the coast, and although it cannot be said that in no case is under-ballasting a contributing cause of tail-shaft breakage, yet it is quite inaccurate to say that it is a sole or even a principal cause of accidents. I am informed that there must always be some danger of excessive strain on the propelling machinery, especially in these days of large steamers, and a certain number of accidents from this cause must always be expected. It is worth noticing that only twenty vessels were recorded as having suffered accident from this cause last year, and those accidents arose in many cases from causes that the ballasting and immersion in the water had nothing to do with—causes, for instance, such as the faulty materials of which the shafts themselves were made. In this connection I should like, with the permission of the House, to read an extract from a letter which we received only a day or two ago from one of the most trusted surveyors of the Board of Trade. He says—

> "I am not at all satisfied that these breakages and losses are the result of under-ballasting. Take last year's list of such casualties. A considerable number of them occurred to laden vessels—large liners and others. I think the material from which a number of tail-shafts are made has a lot to do with these breakages, and shipowners and others are becoming alive to the fact, and are insisting on nothing but the best iron being used in their construction."

Your Lordships will see from this letter that the question of shaft breakages is largely an engineering one, and that they arise from causes which may be uncertain, but which are undoubtedly manifold. I do not think, therefore, that the fact that a certain number of vessels have come to grief in this way during last year, or any year, is in itself an argument in favour of legislation which only aims at one particular aspect of the problem. As my noble friend Lord Heneage has already pointed out, there is no need to fear that this question will be overlooked, as the attention of shipowners and underwriters has been directed to it for some time; and Lloyd's Register have introduced rules which there is every reason to hope will be speedily effective.

So much for the question of tail-shaft breakages. I hope that I have said enough to show that at any rate it cannot be said that under-ballasting leads to more than a few cases of accident of that kind. But the question still remains whether in those few cases loss of life occurs. My noble friend who introduced this Bill told the House that 165 deaths had ensued from this cause. I do not know where the noble Lord gets his figures from.

LORD MUSKERRY: From the official reports of the Board of Trade.

THE EARL OF DUDLEY: So far as I am aware, there is no Report of the Board of Trade which attributes a single death directly to this cause. The only way in which we can get a satisfactory answer to this question is by an examination of the casualty inquiries during a period of years. For this purpose a summary of the casualty inquiries for the last nine years—from 1892 to 1900—has been made out for me at the Board of Trade. I find that out of a total of 895 inquiries held, in only twenty cases has there been any question of under-ballasting raised. In ten of these cases, however, the Court was of opinion that the vessels were sufficiently ballasted. Of the other ten cases four were steamers and six were sailing vessels; and even in four of these cases, though it is true that the inspector was of opinion that when the vessel started on its voyage it was insufficiently ballasted, yet it is, of course, quite problematic whether or not the vessel was lost from that cause. I do not say that these four vessels were not lost through insufficient ballast, but I do say that to assume they were is assuming a great deal.

Therefore, if we take merely the cases of which we have full and complete evidence, we come down to this, that in nine years four steamers and two sailing vessels have been stranded owing, in the opinion of the Court, to insufficient ballast, and in not one of these six cases has a single life been lost. I therefore hope that the House will agree with me that the risk of life is at present so small from the particular reason we are now discussing that it is really needless to pass this Bill. Noble Lords who have already spoken have alluded to the practicability of the proposals. I do not think that there is any difficulty at all in fixing such a line as the noble Lord suggests; but I would point out that the Board of Trade has no means of carrying out that step. The maximum load-line was fixed by a Committee which sat on the subject under the chairmanship of Sir Edward Reed, and a similar inquiry would be necessary to give effect to the noble Lord's proposal for a minimum load-line. It would be impossible for us at the Board of Trade to carry out legislation of this character without some previous inquiry by a Committee.

I should like to say this in conclusion. Reference has been made to the fact that there are certain powers at present in existence under the Merchant Shipping Act for detaining ships. Both the noble Lord opposite who moved the rejection of the Bill and the noble Lord who moved its adoption were of opinion that the Board of Trade has power to detain vessels which have insufficient ballast. That is not so. We have power to detain vessels which are from any cause unsafe, and if a vessel was obviously unsafe from being too light it is natural to assume that she would be detained under the present law. The President of the Board of Trade is about to issue a circular to all surveying officers on this point, and I can assure the House that if a vessel attempted to go to sea in an obviously unsafe condition she would be detained by our officers. The Government sympathise entirely with my noble friend Lord Muskerry in the efforts that he has on more than one occasion made to improve the lot of the merchant seaman, and to decrease the dangers of his arduous avocation; but in this particular instance I do think there is not sufficient ground for the somewhat drastic proposals which he has made. Therefore, if the Bill is pressed to a division, I, for one, shall feel compelled to vote against it.

*LORD NORTON: I should like to say a word or two following upon the statement of the noble Earl. Perhaps I may plead a right to say something, having myself passed the existing load-line. I passed it many years ago, and the experiment has proved most successful. I passed it against exactly the same arguments which are now being adduced against the proposal for a light load-line. I confess that I came down to the House to-day not having made up my mind which view to take with regard to this particular Bill. After hearing the arguments on both sides I confess that I agree with what was said by my noble friend Lord Dunraven. In my opinion, more futile arguments were never adduced against any legislation than those which have been put forward against this Bill. Everyone admits the danger of ships going to sea overloaded or underloaded. The noble Lord who introduced the Bill referred to the official reports of the Board of Trade. The noble Earl who represents that Department disputes them, and says that many of those casualties cannot be proved to have occurred through vessels being underballasted.

I do not suppose anyone who knows anything about shipping matters can doubt the danger arising from ships going to sea in such a condition. It is a palpable fact that a ship under-ballasted is quite unmanageable. It is clear that the remedy suggested in this Bill is suited to prove effective. The present load-line has by experience proved of great benefit, and it is probable that the establishment of a light load-line would alike contribute to save sailors from parallel danger. The noble Earl who represents the Board of Trade said there was no necessity for this Bill. What amount of loss of life does he require to make it necessary? That argument would be good against any kind of assurance whatever. I say there is no difficulty in this proposal. The noble Lord who moved the rejection of the Bill asked how the proposal in the Bill was to be carried out. He asked if the surveyors of the Board of Trade were to measure every single ship, but at the same time he said it was perfectly easy for any surveyor to refuse to allow a ship to go to sea if it was insufficiently ballasted. If it is easy for surveyors to do this, what difficulty would they experience in marking the average safety line below which a ship should not be out of the water? There is, therefore, no difficulty in the way. Any slight trouble or expense to shipowners caused by the carrying out of this proposal is a small matter compared with the safety of life and property which would be secured.

On Question, whether the word "now" stand part of the Question, the House divided:—Contents, 32; Not-Contents, 66.

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WAR OFFICE ADMINISTRATION—DUTIES OF COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

*THE DUKE OF BEDFORD: My Lords, in asking the noble Lord the Under Secretary of State for War the question which stands in my name, I must claim your Lordships' indulgence for a few moments whilst I try to show that the information which I seek is really required. The noble Marquess at the head of His Majesty's Government, speaking on November 9th, 1900, said—

> 'We must consider the defences of this country, scrutinise them carefully, and examine all the machinery, administrative and military, by which they are sustained."

Anxiety to comply with the noble Marquess's exhortation prompts my present question. I believe it can be said with accuracy that, at present, only War Office officials are in a position to understand the working of our military administration, which has never been fully explained to Parliament.

The noble Marquess who was Secretary of State for War in 1895, when the Government reorganised their military administration, said in your Lordships' House that he was not then able to give a full and final account of the proposals of the Government, but could merely give a brief and imperfect sketch of the main outlines of the new system. This brief sketch has never been followed by the full and final account of which the noble Marquess spoke. At present the only source of information is to be found in the Orders in Council. Orders in Council come, and Orders in Council go, in bewildering succession. Their appearance and their exit are conveniently recorded in the official preface to the War Office List, from which I have made the following extracts—

> "An Order in Council of December, 1887, was slightly, but not essentially, varied by one of February, 1888. By a further Order in Council of November, 1895, a new administration was established, but the Central Office was not affected by this Order, and the part relating to the Financial Secretary merely repeated the Order of 1888. An Order in Council of March, 1899, revoked the Order of 1895."

So much, then, for the Orders in Council as they appear in the War Office List, changing and revoking each other and altering the administration of the Army. The Order of 1899 contains the latest definitions of the duties of the Commander-in-Chief and the principal officers of the Headquarters Staff. But these definitions are necessarily general, and deficient in detail. The first paragraph of the Order endows the Commander-in-Chief with the general command of the Army. The four succeeding paragraphs deprive him of control over the Headquarters Staff. Now, my Lords, in what sense can an officer be called Commander-in-Chief if he has not got control over the Headquarters Staff? We cannot tell whether the Commander-in-Chief has been or is the real adviser of the Secretary of State and the real head of the Army; we do not know his position and responsibilities in matters of finance; we are ignorant whether in time of war he is or is not discharged from a portion of his duties. On the outbreak of hostilities the Cabinet appoints a Commander-in-Chief in the field. This war Commander-in-Chief reports directly to the Secretary of State. Thus the duties of the peace Commander-in-Chief seem to lapse. It appears that, in addition to Orders in Council varying the administration of the Army, the Secretary of State for War may, as occasion requires, assume additional powers for dealing with special cases. For instance, it was notified at the end of January that the Secretary of State, in future, could place any officer on half pay for causes other than misconduct. A very well-known case in which this has recently been done will occur immediately to your Lordships. The question at once arises, Is there any limit to this assumption of special powers to enable a Secretary of State for War to solve in silence difficulties of his own creation? To all officers in the Army, and to all those who mean to make the Army their profession, the answer is of supreme importance. I find, my Lords, that in 1887 a Commission appointed to report upon Warlike Stores reported upon the Secretary of State for War. Why that Minister was then classed as a "warlike store" I am not concerned to inquire. I merely quote to your Lordships from the Report of that Commission. The Royal Commission on Warlike Stores reported on 16th May, 1887, and said that—

> "The Secretary of State is charged with five great functions, any one of which would be sufficient to occupy the whole time of a man of first-rate industry, ability, and knowledge."

A very few years later the Hartington Commission arrived at exactly the same conclusion in reference to the duties of the Commander-in-Chief. That officer had duties placed upon him far in excess of the power of any one man to perform. The key-note of the Hartington Commission was to lessen the power and diminish the responsibilities of the Commander-in-Chief. Indeed, the Commission recommended the abolition of that office. The Government decided to retain the name, but to practically abolish the office of Commander-in-Chief by transferring his responsibilities to the Secretary of State for War, in spite of the Report of the Commission of 1887 that that Minister was already completely overburdened. In 1895 the concentration of responsibility in the Commander-in-Chief was terminated in favour of co-ordinate authorities collectively responsible to the Secretary of State.

As though to accentuate the responsibility of the Secretary of State for War, that Minister is empowered by Act of Parliament not only to appoint, but at his pleasure to remove, the Financial Secretary, who is his chief adviser on all questions of Army expenditure, responsible to him for the Army Estimates, and for the redistribution of the sums granted for the year. We do not know, we have no means of knowing, what sum the military experts have asked for, what they consider to be the absolutely necessary minimum, or any of the reasons which prompt them to ask for less or more than usual. All we know is that a certain sum has been granted, which may be less by millions than the sum asked for, and that the Financial Secretary is subject to removal at the pleasure of the Secretary of State for War.

A variety of boards, committees, and councils are mingled in the work of administration at the War Office. The Secretary of State for War, the Under Secretary, the Financial Secretary, together with the Headquarters Staff and the Commander-in-Chief, form the War Office Council. The Commander-in-Chief and the Headquarters Staff form the Army Board. But the decision of that Board, on appeal from any one of its members, may be reversed by the Secretary of State. The Commander-in-Chief, with two officers to assist him, carry out those duties which in Continental armies are discharged by one officer alone, the chief of the staff. Your Lordships are aware that in 1895 the five great officers of the Headquarters Staff of the Army were made directly and co-ordinately responsible to the Secretary of State for their different departments. They advise the Secretary of State directly upon all matters connected with their departments. Thus the Headquarters Staff of the Army is not the staff of the Commander-in-Chief, but the staff of the Secretary of State for War. Now the Headquarters Staff, sitting with the Commander-in-Chief as its head, forms the Army Board. Thus we have one staff serving two chiefs, the one a Cabinet Minister and the other a distinguished soldier. We have always believed from days of old that no man can serve two masters, for most undesirable results are certain to follow.

Above the Secretary of State we have, in the first place, the Cabinet, and, in the second, the Committee of National Defence. We do not know the powers of this Committee, or its exact relations to the Secretary of State. It is said to meet occasionally and to keep no minutes. However, this Committee of National Defence is composed of most illustrious Ministers, without any of the special knowledge and experience requisite for successfully organising the defence of a world-wide Empire. The action of the Secretary of State implies often the initiative, always the consent, of both the Cabinet and the Committee of National Defence. It is true that the Secretary of State is held responsible for the whole Army, but in purely military matters it is impossible to bring personal responsibility home to a civilian Secretary of State. That responsibility must devolve on subordinate officers, who are protected from all blame by the umbrella of collective authority, under which they wait unconcernedly till the clouds roll by. Individual responsibility in the War Office seems to begin and end with the rank of doorkeeper.

I am not hopeful of any real reform of the Army unless the Government take the country fully and frankly into their confidence on the subject of Army administration. Popular enthusiasm, which is essential to the existence of a Volunteer Army, can only be aroused and maintained when the nation easily understands the way in which the Army is administered. The Government must remember that, although we do not know the precise system which has governed the Army, we do know its exact result—namely, the opening scenes of the South African War. We had administrative machinery designed to ensure victory and success. Under the test of war it turned out disaster and humiliation. Is it unreasonable to wish to know the exact construction of the machinery which gave results so unexpected and so calamitous?

I apprehend that your Lordships will agree that there is a widespread wish in the country for legislative reform in the Army—I say, my Lords, legislative reform as distinguished from administrative change. I am well aware that the Government cannot now make any announcement of their intentions for the future. But, my Lords, my contention is that a detailed explanation of our existing military administration would pave the way for legislative reform more usefully than a series of administrative changes launched haphazard from the War Office. The Secretary of State has already appointed two Departmental Committees, one to instruct him how to carry on the work of the Department over which he has just been called upon to preside, and the other to inquire into the exact position which the Yeomanry are to occupy in an organisation the principles of which are not yet determined. Departmental Committees have inquired into the condition of the War Office ever since the Crimean War. The cumulative result of the labours of those Committees are the disasters in South Africa. But, my Lords, forty years of failure seem to count for nothing in the sight of the War Office, I presume because

> "Hope springs eternal in the human breast:
> Committees never are, but always to be blest."

In conclusion, I beg to call your Lordships' attention to the apparent anomalies of the military administration, and to ask the noble Lord the Under Secretary of State for information on the subject.

*The UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE for WAR (Lord RAGLAN): My Lords, it is with considerable diffidence that I address myself to this question. In the first place, I was brought up as a soldier, I had the honour to serve in the same regiment as the noble Duke, I learned the lesson of discipline in early life, and it goes somewhat against the grain to have publicly to discuss the proceedings of high officials whom I have always looked upon with respect from a distance. In the second place, as your Lordships are aware, my official life has been short; I have only been at the War Office for a few months, and I am asked to explain the working of a great system of which I have hardly had time to grasp the outline. The chief accusation which the noble Duke brought against the War Office was that there was no such thing as responsibility. I should like to point out that the changes to which the noble Duke took exception were brought about solely with the view of giving more individual responsibility. We all know that the tendency of all great institutions, whether Government institutions or not, is towards excessive centralisation. That tendency is continually increasing, and requires to be fought against. These Departmental Committees to which the noble Lord takes such exception were chiefly formed with the object of endeavouring, as far as possible, to further a system of decentralisation. The noble Duke complained that the result of the present system is that all power has been removed from the Commander-in-Chief. If you have any system of decentralisation you must decentralise responsibility, and to decentralise responsibility you must decentralise power. No man can accept responsibility without accepting at the same time a certain amount of power. You must give it to him in order that he may be able to exercise that responsibility.

The four great departments of the War Office are the Adjutant General's department, the Quartermaster General's department, the department of the Inspector General of Fortifications, and the department of Director General of Ordnance. By the last reorganisation—I quite agree with my noble friend there have been several—those four departments were put under their respective heads, who were made absolutely responsible for the conduct of their respective departments. That did not remove them from the supervision of the Commander-in-Chief, though they were removed from his control. Besides those four military departments there are the department of the Military Secretary and the department of the Director of Military Intelligence. The Military Secretary's department, as most of your Lordships are aware, deals with the appointment and retirement of officers, and so on, and these are matters which must come almost hourly under the immediate control of the Commander-in-Chief. The Military Intelligence department deals with military intelligence, with mobilisation, and with general staff preparation for war. It is also considered that that department should be under the direct control of the Commander-in-Chief. All these departments are under the supervision of the Commander-in-Chief; he can at any moment see papers he desires to see on any subject, and can send for any officer either inside the office or out of it. I cannot but think that the supervision of the Commander-in-Chief is exactly what the Commander-in-Chief chooses to make it. If the Commander-in-Chief were to attempt to control every department of the War Office, no mortal man could stand the strain for a week. Under the present conditions the responsibility, and therefore the power, was deputed to the heads of these departments. They have charge of the work which is to be executed in their departments, but the Commander-in-Chief is consulted when that work is being mapped out. The head of the department does that work subject to the supervision of the Commander-in-Chief, who can see exactly what is happening.

I will now come to the difference between control and supervision. Control consists in standing over a man while he does the work; supervision consists in telling that man to do the work, still having the right to inquire how he is getting on with it at any moment. Take, for instance, the case of a Commander-in-Chief in the field. He has a column under his own immediate personal command. That is under his control. He sends out a detachment under a general officer. He says to that general officer, "March from A to B." That column then passes beyond the control of the Commander-in-Chief, it becomes merely under his supervision. The control of the column remains in the hands of the general officer until he gets fresh orders from the supervising authority altering his plans. That is the difference between control and supervision as applied to the relations between the Commander-in-Chief and the other officers in the War Office.

I now come to my own personal experiences. As far as I have seen, no question affecting discipline—and I use the word "discipline" in its widest possible sense—has been decided since I have been at the War Office without the Commander-in-Chief having been consulted. In many quarters capital has been made out of the fact that all the correspondence goes out in the name of the Secretary of State for War. That custom was adopted in deference to the views of high military authorities, but no great importance is attached to it, and the Secretary of State does not see why the correspondence should not be sent out in the name of the Department which sent it out. All the correspondence which comes into the War Office is addressed to the Under Secretary for War. The reason for that is that it all has to go to a central office to be registered. The Secretary of State sees no particular reason why the correspondence should not be addressed to the particular Department for which it is intended, but it would make no practical difference in the working of the system.

With regard to the personal relations between the Secretary of State and the Commander-in-Chief, I can say that every Paper which I have seen—and I think I have seen most of them—which referred in the slightest way to discipline or to any purely military subject apart from that of expenditure—and even those in the great majority of cases—had a note upon it to the effect that the Commander-in-Chief had seen it and agreed with it. Indeed, the Secretary of State and the Commander-in-Chief were in daily, almost hourly, correspondence. My room lies between the rooms of those two high officials, and constantly throughout the day either the Secretary of State passes through my room to see the Commander-in-Chief, or the Commander-in-Chief passes through to see the Secretary of State. There are times when I wish that their communications were not so constant.

There seems to be an idea that the Orders in Council of 1895 and 1899 were brought in solely with the object of enabling the civilian element to overrule and usurp the position of the military element. I can assure my noble friend that that is wrong. The basis of the change then made was simply the decentralisation of responsibility, and in decentralising responsibility it was also necessary to decentralise power. The noble Duke alluded to the war in South Africa. I was not in office at the time to which the noble Duke alludes, but I must challenge him to produce his authority for saying that the deficiencies of the civilians at the War Office caused the disasters early in the war, and to give his authority to say that any supplies or any reinforcements that have been demanded by the military authorities have ever been refused by the civil authorities. I do not think he can.

In conclusion, I have merely to say this. The Secretary of State for War represents the Cabinet, and the Cabinet in the long run must represent Parliament, which must decide all great questions of policy and control every single item of expenditure. Therefore, whatever arrangements are made at the War Office, the Secretary of State must in the long run be supreme. But I can assure your Lordships that there is no desire on the part of anyone, whether inside or outside the War Office, either civil or military, to detract in any way from the position, or to belittle the authority, of the Commander-in-Chief.

VISCOUNT WOLSELEY: My Lords, I gladly avail myself of this opportunity to call your Lordships' serious attention to the novel and experimental Army system introduced a few years back, under which His Majesty's forces are, I cannot say commanded by a professional soldier, but administered by a civilian Secretary of State. I speak in the presence of many noble Lords who are or who have been soldiers, and who therefore clearly understand the great difference in the meaning of those two expressions—"administration" and "command." I do not think I mislead those who have not been soldiers when I state that in all countries and in all ages standing armies have been controlled by professional soldiers, who, above all things, were personally responsible for the discipline and war training, and, consequently, for the military efficiency of the troops they commanded. The only exceptions to this rule ever attempted, as far as my military knowledge goes, are, the Chinese army—not a very good pattern to follow—and our own Army, which for the last five years has been administered by a civilian Secretary of State, and not actually commanded by a soldier, as it had always previously been.

I shall try, my Lords, to make my statements as general and impersonal as possible. I shall adduce no specific instances nor quote any particular correspondence to illustrate what I say. My arguments are not directed against individuals, but against a military system which I have honestly tried for five years and found wanting—which entails many great dangers not realised by the people of this realm. Before entering upon my subject, I would impress upon your Lordships that nothing can be further from my intention than to make any attack upon the Government, still less upon any particular member of it. With the late Secretary of State for War, the present Minister for Foreign Affairs, I was brought into almost daily contact whilst I was Commander-in-Chief, and I believe he will corroborate the statement that we worked most cordially together. No disagreeable incident of any sort that I can recall ever marred the pleasant relations which marked our intercourse. This is all the more satisfactory because, no matter what may be our military system, the non-political Commander-in-Chief and the political War Minister must often approach Army matters from very different standpoints. Even when equally impressed with the importance of a certain step they may disagree as to its feasibility. For example, say that it seems highly desirable to provide better field guns and more of them. It is the soldier's manifest duty to press for them strenuously, yet the War Minister, better informed as to the current financial demands of the Empire, may hesitate to approve of the expenditure. He may honestly believe that some other national requirements should have precedence. Even if he has been convinced personally of the urgency of the measure, he has still to bring his colleagues and the Cabinet to the same way of thinking, while there always remains the fierce Cerberus that guards the Treasury and so often refuses to be appeased.

It would not be difficult to show that the needs of the Army and its general efficiency have been more than once subordinated to the wish to produce a low Budget. Here, obviously, points of difference may arise between the political chief and the professional soldier. But it is not my intention to dwell upon the past. My concern is with the present and the future. I have no personal complaints to urge, no grievances to ventilate. My one great object is to strengthen the position of my successors in the post I have lately vacated, so that they may be given a larger share in the management of the Army than the existing Order in Council accords to the so-called, but really misnamed, Commander-in-Chief. No one can recognise more fully than I do the complete and individual responsibility to Parliament of the Secretary of State for War for everything relating to the Army. This constitutional responsibility was clearly defined in the War Office Act of 1870, and subsequently strengthened by Orders in Council. I do not, cannot, complain of it, for it existed long before the present Army system was invented, and it is inevitable under our Constitution

My complaint is against the present Army system, which has robbed the professional Commander-in-Chief of his chief usefulness, and has virtually handed over the command and entire management of the Army to a civilian Secretary of State assisted by subordinates with whom he deals direct. If anyone doubts this fact let him read the Order in Council of November, 1895. Let me give an illustration of how that Order in Council works and of the position of the Secretary of State under it. When Mr. Kruger declared war against Her late Majesty in the year 1899, it was found necessary to send a large army to South Africa. But if that army had not been forthcoming, the fault would have rested with the Secretary of State for War, not with the Commander-in-Chief. If the guns or small arms with which our troops took the field were not what they should have been, or, to come down to the present moment, suppose it were necessary now to mobilise our Militia, Yeomanry, and Volunteers for home defence, and it was found that the only guns in their possession were practically useless for modern warfare, the responsibility for that state of things would not rest with the Commander-in-Chief. The Secretary of State for War would be alone responsible for it. He is also responsible to Parliament that all reserves are ready, the guns, ammunition, clothing, horses, saddlery, harness, and everything else necessary to convert an army on a peace footing into an army fit for the field. Of course, under our Constitution this, the ultimate responsibility, he can share with the Commander-in-Chief or any other military officer. But he may be greatly relieved in it, the burden may be lessened, by the help of his expert adviser.

It has always been, and is still, the duty of the Commander-in-Chief to bring strongly—he cannot do so too strongly—to the notice of the Secretary of State the wants of the military forces. If he feels the Regular Army is not strong enough to perform the duties for which it is maintained, or if its material, its armament, and equipment are imperfect or insufficient, it is his duty to urge the need for additions—it has often been mine, as Adjutant General and Commander-in-Chief, to do so—but after that he can do no more. There the Commander-in-Chief's responsibility ceases. Although the various needs are not disputed, not only are no steps taken to meet them, but no one outside the Government is aware that their urgency has been raised. The Government has thought it advisable from economic reasons to postpone their provision, but yet it will not take the nation into its confidence that such important demands for men and stores have been put forward by the experts, and, nevertheless, refused. I cannot assert too emphatically that it behoves Parliament to devise some plan by which the fact that these strong representations have been so made and still refused should be laid before the nation for it to decide between the expert and the economist. In no other way can we safeguard the Empire from great and unknown perils.

For the last twenty-eight years I have been employed in various positions under many War Office administrations, and many an evening at the end of my day's work I have felt sick at heart when I contemplated the great national risks deliberately accepted by the Government that happened to be in office. And why so accepted? Because it was not then politically expedient to ask Parliament for the money required to properly arm and equip our Army. Ministers evidently hoped that evil days might not befall the country during their term of office. It has often fallen to my lot when in the field to have to calculate the chances and the risks that certain operations would entail, and I have had at times to face those risks and run them in making a choice of possible evils. But I would ask, What are such risks to those deliberately accepted time after time by Cabinets sooner than do the unpopular thing of asking for money to provide against them? When war is upon us, then money is to be had easily and for the asking. But money, as we know to our cost, will not then purchase in the open markets of the world the guns and other stores which were not laid in betimes, and which, when war comes, are consequently required. It is but natural in time of peace, under our system of government by party, and when the nation is left in igorance of the views entertained by the military specialist upon the military requirements of the moment, that the party in power should still put economy before efficiency, and strain every nerve to spend as little as possible. That is the necessary outcome of the political system upon which our Constitution is framed.

My Lords, in asking you to seriously consider the present unmilitary system under which the Army is now administered, I believe I can express some useful opinion upon this subject. At any rate, I feel that, as a Member of your Lordships' House, it is my duty, as well as my pleasure, to state here the result of my experience. Before I enter into details, I feel that I must ask the House to allow me to give a short outline of the Army system it replaced. I shall not go into ancient history, and shall be as brief as I can. What I may call the modern system of Army Government was begun by the greatest War Minister have we had in modern days—Mr. Cardwell—with the War Office Act of 1870 and the Orders in Council of that same year, which defined the respective duties of the Commander-in-Chief, of the Surveyor General of Ordnance, and of the Financial Secretary. The Commander-in-Chief retained under that system, as, theretofore, the direct and real command of the Army, and was charged with the discipline, distribution, military education, training, and the fighting efficiency of all ranks in all the military forces of the Crown. The Surveyor General of Ordnance was "charged with providing, holding, and issuing to all branches of those forces food, fuel, clothing, arms, and all the stores and equipment and transport they required, both in peace and war." The duties of the Financial Secretary were to draw up the Annual Estimates and to watch over all military expenditure.

This system remained in force until 1888, when Mr. Stanhope, then War Minister, amended and strengthened it by the Orders in Council of that date. They brought our Army abreast with modern ideas as far as that was possible under our form of government. The changes they introduced may be fairly regarded as the mathematical complement to Mr. Cardwell's great measure of Army reform of some fifteen years before. In my opinion Mr. Stanhope's system was a sound and workmanlike solution of a very difficult problem. The Army never gave him the credit he deserved for it, nor for the courage and determination with which he combated the opposition it encountered. Under it, the responsibility of the War Minister to Parliament was in no sense reduced, but subject to it; the Commander-in-Chief—the military specialist—was charged with the discipline, education, military training, and fighting efficiency of all ranks of the military forces that are annually voted by Parliament. In other words, the Commander-in-Chief was held responsible by the Secretary of State for War that those military forces were always thoroughly efficient, and, supposing the stores, guns, etc., voted were sufficient, that the Army was always ready for rapid mobilisation. This, I contend, was a practical, well-working system—very different from that in force to-day. An effective control over all military expenditure was exercised by the Financial Secretary, who was a Member of Parliament and directly under the orders of the Secretary of State for War. The Commander-in-Chief had no command over public money whatever, and it was the duty of the Financial Secretary to keep the War Minister informed upon all matters bearing in any way upon Army expenditure. Whilst, therefore, the financial control of the Minister was absolute and complete, the military efficiency of the Army was secured by being placed under one man, the soldier-expert, the Commander-in-Chief. He was, in effect, as I have said, directly responsible to the War Minister for the discipline, military education, training, and fighting efficiency of all ranks. I believe it went far to reconcile the anomaly of dual government under which our Army has always laboured, and while it ensured the complete control of Parliament over the Army, did not interfere with the direct responsibility of the Commander-in-Chief for military efficiency.

The next modification of the system was started when Mr. Stanhope's Order in Council of February, 1888, was barely two weeks old. The new move was originated by a Member of the other House—an old friend of mine and an old soldier — who asked for a Royal Commission on the military and naval requirements for the protection of the Empire. This was a very sensible proposal, and it might well be revived to-day, when the nation is sadly in need of enlightenment on this essential question. The answer accorded was amusing, and it may be said that the hon. Member, having asked for bread, was given a stone. A Royal Commission was granted, not to investigate the necessities for national defence, but to report "on the extent to which our naval and military systems as at present organised and administered are adapted to the national wants." There was yet a greater change of front when the Commission was appointed and the reference to it made public. Its object was stated to be—

> "to enquire into the civil and professional administration of the naval and military departments and the relation of those departments to each other and to the Treasury, and to report what changes in the existing system would tend to efficiency and economy in the public service."

This Commission consisted of the noble Duke the Lord President of the Council and of eight others. Of these, one was a soldier, one a sailor, one was a Member of your Lordships' House, four were Members of the other House, of whom one had been Chancellor of the Exchequer and three had been Secretaries of State for War, one had been Governor of Bombay and possessed great Indian experience, the eighth being a private gentleman of commercial experience. Had this Commission confined itself to a Report on the subjects set forth in the instructions given to it, I have no doubt that, composed as it was, its Report might have been of high public value. But it launched out into recommendations for a complete change in the system of Army command and Army administration. I feel that nine-tenths of the Army would not believe that efficiency could result from changes carried out merely upon the recommendation of a Commission in which only one member was a soldier—a brilliantly able man, indeed, an old comrade of whom I have the highest opinion, but who had never held any high command, and had never been Adjutant or Quartermaster General of the Army. This Committee submitted two Reports, and of the eight members five dissented from clauses in both Reports. One member, a late Chancellor of the Exchequer, recommended the abolition of the office of Secretary of State for War. And yet upon the strength of those Reports an Army system then known to have been working admirably was overturned and the present experimental system established in its place. I call it experimental because no such system had been tried that I know of in any other army before. I have been told that the new proposals were based upon a system under which the Navy is administered by a Board. Not being a sailor, I am incapable of expressing any useful opinion upon the system upon which our Navy is managed. I emphatically pronounce it to be entirely unsuited when applied to the government of the Army, and I maintain that under it you will never have an efficient, and I doubt much if you will ever have a contented Army.

In 1895, the illustrious Duke, who had been a most popular Commander-in-Chief for nearly forty years, resigned that position, and I was selected to succeed him. The present Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, in intimating to me that I had been selected to succeed his Royal Highness, informed me that it was intended to introduce regulations which would greatly alter the position of all future Commanders-in-Chief, and it was upon that understanding I accepted the offer. When I subsequently learnt what was the nature of these alterations, I found they were certainly not to my liking, but I resolved to give them a fair trial. I have done so honestly for the last five years, including a full year of actual war. It is because, after this experience, I believe them to be injurious to the efficiency of the Army and fraught with danger to the highest interests of the Empire, and because I am certain that under their provisions you can never have any effective Army, that I am here to-day in the hope of making my reasons for this opinion evident and clear to your Lordships.

Allow me now to analyse briefly this experimental Army system of 1895. It follows generally, as I have said already, the plan under which the Navy has long been administered—namely, by a Board. In other words, it divides into what I may term water-tight compartments the responsibility, under the Secretary of State for War, for the fighting efficiency of the Army, a responsibility which in all previous times had been concentrated in the Commander-in-Chief. The heads of these four water-tight compartments have no connection one with the other. They have no general military head; each is singly and individually responsible to the Secretary of State for War for the orders he gives and the work he performs. Each is the adviser of the Secretary of State for War, and in describing their duties and position no reference even is made to the existence of a Commander-in-Chief. Until 1895 the Commander-in-Chief, as I have repeatedly urged, was responsible to the Secretary of State that the Army was thoroughly well trained for war. There is now no one soldier to whom the country can look as directly and professionally responsible for the military efficiency of the Army it pays for. It must depend upon the statesman, almost invariably a civilian, whom the Prime Minister may select from among political supporters for the position of Secretary of State for War. I would ask, Is this wise? Is it businesslike?

I venture to illustrate this method of Army administration by a homely and familiar analogy. I have lately been engaged in converting an old farmhouse into a little country residence. My first step was to call in an architect, an expert. I told him what I wanted, and, having done so, I left the expert to look after the builder and his men. Under our Constitution the Secretary of State, as the representative of the Cabinet, used to stand to the Commander-in-Chief in much the same position as I did to the architect. The Secretary of State acted as the owner, the Commander-in-Chief was the expert. But mark the difference of procedure: instead of dealing with one expert, the Secretary of State asks the opinion and advice of every one of his foremen, without the knowledge of the architect, much less consulting him. Had I followed this system, I wonder what sort of a house I should have had—very possibly the staircase would have been forgotten. One of the foremen—let us say the carpenter foreman—in his anxiety to make perfect his own particular job in which his interest was absorbed, and knowing little or nothing of the general plan of the whole building, might have impressed me with the importance of his own special share in the operation, while the drains might have been overlooked, or some other necessity might have been omitted that would have left the house uninhabitable. Amplifying this, and dealing with it on broader lines, the inconvenience, the mischief, the possible dangers of the present system may be exemplified in another way. Hardly one of the many questions that come up before the Secretary of State for decision is of quite a simple nature. All, as a rule, concern several distinct branches in the War Office. Take, for instance, the introduction of a new rifle. Here there are intricate, technical points affecting all manners of people. The mechanism, range, and precision of fire are within the province of the Director General of Ordnance; the weight of the weapon, the carrying power of the soldier, the facility for aiming and firing, involve important questions which concern the Adjutant General, the Quartermaster General, and so on. Each of these officers would naturally give the best advice from his own particular branch's point of view, which would often be at variance with the views urged by other departments. How can the political Minister of War, to whom military science is more or less an enigma, usefully hold the balance between such conflicting opinions? How can he be sure that he is giving due weight to each point, and that he fully realises the force of one and the weakness of another? That can only be well done by the trained military expert, the Commander-in-Chief, who knows from experience every technicality, every detail himself. It is the business to which he has been brought up, and he can therefore easily sift out the rubbish and emphasise the good stuff in a way that only an expert can. Then, when he has heard all sides, he will form his opinion, and with the sound judgment of ripe knowledge and wide experience he will lay the case before his official superior, the Minister for War. There can be nothing of this kind under our present military system. The civilian Secretary of State is left in a fog of doubt and indecision, the result of which is the probable shelving of the question, or, still worse, that the wrong course is taken.

If the Commander-in-Chief is not allowed to command the Army in the sense that he is the one man whom the Secretary of State is to consult, and whose professional advice he is to follow, he will be like the invalid who took the advice of half-a-dozen doctors, each separately and without the knowledge of the others. In his case there will be as many conflicting and inconsistent plans of operation as there were foremen under the architect in my building illustration. It would seem, indeed, that to save appearances the title of Commander-in-Chief is still bestowed upon a General Officer, but he is not allowed to have or exercise the authority possessed by every Commander-in-Chief before 1895, and, strange to say, which is still exercised by the Generals commanding in Ireland, in India, and in all our foreign stations. The Adjutant General and the Quartermaster General are no longer the staff officers of the Commander-in-Chief at Army Headquarters, as the officers bearing those titles are of the General Officers under whom they serve elsewhere, and as the Adjutant and Quartermaster of a regiment are the staff officers of its commanding officer. They are now accountable to the Secretary of State for War, and not to the Commander-in-Chief, for the discharge of their duties. They are, in fact, the staff officers of the civilian Secretary of State, who deals with them directly, independently of the Commander-in-Chief, and even without his knowledge, on all the most important subjects in which military efficiency consists.

Is this a military system that commends itself to any man who knows the A B C of military organisation, of military life, of military history? Only think of what would be the result if you introduced such a system into the management of an infantry battalion! Suppose a clever magistrate in each town where a regiment is stationed were selected by the Home Secretary to have under him the adjutant and the quartermaster, who were to be responsible to the magistrate for the discipline, housing, feeding, and general well-being of their regiment, and that the magistrate was at the same time to ignore the existence of the regimental commanding officer? Is that a condition of things that recommends itself to your Lordships? Does any man imagine it would conduce to military efficiency? But I may be told that the Commander-in-Chief is by the Order in Council of 1895 "charged with the general supervision of the military departments of the War Office." Yet the head of each of these is himself "responsible for all questions relating to his department, and for submitting them—when higher authority is necessary—to the Secretary of State." The incompatibility of these provisions is surely obvious. How can the Commander-in-Chief supervise or control a department the head of which is an independent authority, at least to the extent of having free access to the supreme head? My Lords, I should not like to weary you with criticisms upon the distribution of responsibility laid down in the "memorandum showing the duties of the various departments of the War Office and the responsibilities of its principal heads to the Secretary of State." Suffice it to say that it is a contradiction in terms, and the system it creates is unworkable—is, indeed, in my opinion, an impossibility. The endeavour to combine general control in one place and person with individual responsibility in many others has failed in both objects. The Commander-in-Chief has not effective control; neither are the heads of departments fully responsible. Moreover, the work and cross reference in all branches has largely increased without any benefit to the Army or the public service.

As an illustration of this I may mention that all letters for the purely military offices, even those upon discipline, drill, and technical and purely professional points, are now addressed to the Under Secretary of State, and not to the military branches that can alone deal with them. They are all answered, not in the name of the Commander-in-Chief, but in that of the Secretary of State. When the colonel commanding a regiment receives a letter in the name of the Secretary of State, upon, say, the advantages of open formations in field movements, the order is received as a comical episode of our new military system. To many it is a joke, but this novel system of correspondence is misunderstood in the Army generally. It leads soldiers to believe that even serious matters of discipline are no longer dealt with by their officers, but by a civilian Secretary of State, of whose very name they are mostly ignorant. My Lords, I presume I need scarcely tell you that our soldiers do not love the War Office or its civilian rulers. You cannot thus flout the sentiment of the Army without doing injury to its *morale*. No soldiers like the idea of being commanded by men in civil life, and no one who knows what our soldiers are like would ever have invented a system which brings that fact home to our men. At present the centralisation of work and correspondence in the office of the Secretary of State is excessive, and the work is not nearly as well done as when it was distributed throughout the military branches. In fact, the Army becomes less and less ruled and governed on military lines, to the detriment of military efficiency.

In a time of pressure, such as that we have lately gone through, valuable time is squandered. The Commander-in-Chief's action is often paralysed, and the office blocked with routine papers passing backwards and forwards to and from the office of the Secretary of State, most of which should be disposed of by subordinate officers in the purely military branches. But I am told that our Navy, the first in the world, is ruled by a Board in which there are only four sailors; that each of these four has distinct responsibilities, for the due performance of which each is alone answerable to the First Lord—a civilian who is necessarily as ignorant of ships and sailors as I am. I am not competent to express any useful opinion upon any naval matters, nor to criticise the mode in which our splendid Navy is governed; nor do I know whether the majority of our admirals and captains are fully satisfied with our system of naval government. I am not a sailor, and, consequently, my opinion upon such a point would be absolutely worthless. I confine myself to expressing an opinion upon the government of the service—the Army in which I have spent my life and in which I have held the highest positions, both in peace and in war. I am fully aware of the responsibility I assume when I state that my experience convinces me that as long as you continue to deprive the Commander-in-Chief of all responsibility for the discipline, military education, military training and fighting efficiency of the officers and men who constitute the military forces of the Crown, you must not expect to have the effective army which the nation wants, and for which it is prepared to pay.

We have thus created for Army Headquarters a military system which I have shown to be new to our own Army, opposed to all the experience of the past, and different also from the system under which our own armies in Ireland, in India, and at all stations at home and abroad are commanded and governed. You refuse to give to the Commander-in-Chief of the Army the command and discipline of the troops under him, although you do confer those responsibilities upon all local and subordinate commanders. Does the nation mean to perpetuate a system as illogical as it is novel and unmilitary and unsatisfactory? If the Army must have a War Minister responsible to Parliament—and this constitutional principle cannot be departed from—ought we not, as far as possible, to prevent this principle from being destructive of our Army? No matter how able the civilian War Minister may be, I may without offence say that he must necessarily be ignorant of war and its science and still more of its practice. Who would care to know his individual opinion upon any military subject? Is he likely to be the best man to create an army or to convert a badly-trained army into a good one? We are proud to be called a nation of shopkeepers, but is this a businesslike proceeding? In the interests of the Army, but still more of the State, we are bound to work upon some intelligible plan for the management of England's military business which will harmonise with established principles. I say, with confidence, that the only one which will answer the national ends was that devised in 1888 by Mr. Stanhope. Under it the Army steadily improved year by year until 1895, when the present pernicious system was introduced, and on no sufficient reason so far as I can see.

I should much like, before I conclude, to return to one branch of the subject which I touched on incidentally at the beginning of my speech. I am strongly of opinion that the military expert at the War Office should have the privilege, that it should be his right, no less than his duty, to make his views public whenever the occasion arises. My Lords, it is not a satisfactory state of things that when there is a difference of opinion on our military needs between the political and the professional chief, nothing is heard on the point of issue outside the War Office. The matter may have seemed to the soldier one of extreme urgency, fraught with momentous bearing upon our life, our very existence as a nation. The civilian, rightly or wrongly, thinks otherwise, and there it ends. Now I say, I affirm, most unhesitatingly, that it should not be competent for the War Minister, or indeed the Cabinet, to give a final decision adverse to a proposal deemed of such grave importance by the military expert. In such a situation, in such a conflict of opinion, only the nation itself can decide. We should take the people of Great Britain into our confidence, and after stating both sides of the case, ask them for a verdict. The Commander-in-Chief would show cause why more men, more guns, more material, some change of military policy were in his opinion imperatively needed. The War Minister would reply defending his action in refusing to comply with such demands. Either side might be justified; the need might not be so great as suggested, the difficulty of response at the moment insurmountable; but at least those most concerned, the people themselves, would have the casting vote. I have always thought that Governments show much weakness in concealing the fact that such momentous questions hang occasionally in the balance.

I would go yet further in assuring the nation that its interests were being constantly safeguarded in the matter of its military institutions and strength. I would throw the weight and responsibility for these upon the Commander-in-Chief, not only by revising the Order in Council of 1895, but by calling for a definite and direct report or certificate from him, year by year, that the Army was in proper order, fit and complete at every point, sufficient in numbers, well found in every respect, armed with the best weapons, sufficiently equipped and ready for rapid mobilization. Where deficiencies and shortcomings existed they should be stated specifically and in detail. My experience of Army Headquarters in many capacities, and extending over many years, leads me to believe that had this rule been in force, had the demands made annually for the last fifteen years by the Commander-in-Chief been published, together with his reasons for making them, the taxpayer would, in most, if not all instances, have insisted upon these demands being complied with whenever they had been refused. This would have added perhaps to the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Budget, but the country would have escaped many terrible risks. It is not the fault of any particular Secretary of State that we are never ready for any great emergency, but because the nation is never told how we stand in such matters, and the only practical remedy is to be found in this annual report from the Commander-in-Chief to which I have just referred. Without it I would warn this House and the people of England that they can never be certain they are getting the value of their money already spent, or that they will not be rushed at a time of crisis into almost unlimited expenditure. There are many good reasons, into which I shall not enter here, why our standing army should be small. All I claim is that, at whatever level you may fix the strength of our fighting forces, they should at all times be thoroughly efficient, and that a report to this effect should be supplied by the Commander-in-Chief. His responsibility for this statement must so obviously affect his character and reputation that a very sound guarantee for its honesty is afforded.

Recapitulating briefly, I repeat that I found the system established in 1888 under which I worked all that could be desired under our constitutional conditions. I have lately given the new system, that of 1895, a fair trial of five years, and I condemn it as an arrangement that will never give us a satisfactory Army. I believe it to be a fruitful cause of military weakness, and that it is likely to become a positive danger in times of war. One other word. It may be reasonably argued that if our present Army system is so bad, so unlike that of all the great military nations, how were we able under it to despatch the large army to South Africa we so lately sent there in such a satisfactory manner? The answer, my Lords, is a simple one. No Army system, however bad it may be, would be allowed to stand in the way at such a time by officers like those of whom the Headquarters Staff of the Army consisted in 1899. I have known the War Office well for the last twenty-eight years, and I unhesitatingly say that as a whole it could not have been composed of better men than those serving when Mr. Kruger declared war. All were highly educated in their profession, almost all having qualified at the Staff College. They were effectively helped by all the generals and their staff at the several ports where troops embarked. All worked hard, day and night, and all were determined that the Army required in South Africa should be despatched from England without a hitch, system or no system, and they successfully carried out that determination. But in doing so they were not helped by the new Army system. If ever the history of what was then done is fully written, the country will realise how much it owes to those officers, and how little to the new-fangled, experimental, and unmilitary system under which they were supposed to work. According to my views of national and military matters, it is an unwarrantable risk to run in war to rest content with an inherently bad Army system, trusting always to find first-rate officers to work it in time of need.

An army system to be sound must be constructed upon essentially military principles of the simplest and least complicated nature, so that it may work almost automatically. It must be worked upon military lines, by officers well educated by staff, work, under the direct orders and supervision of the most experienced general as a commander-in-chief. He must know what war is, and, above all things, must thoroughly understand British soldiers, their needs, their virtues—and they are many—their likes and dislikes. He should be a man who can sympathise with their prejudices, and who from personal experience knows well the history and traditions of His Majesty's Army. Our Army is a peculiarly complicated contrivance, differing from all other European armies in constitution, duties, and character, and my own long experience tells me it can never be what the British nation expects it to be under our present military system. As I have already said, no one is more convinced than I am that the responsibility of the Minister for War to Parliament cannot be reduced in any way. But, my Lords, it was most carefully safeguarded by the provisions in Mr. Stanhope's Order in Council, whilst the Commander-in-Chief was made directly and professionally responsible to the Secretary for War for the discipline and efficiency of all our military forces. That is the chain of responsibility upon which alone, in a constitutionally governed country like ours, the efficiency of the Army and its readiness for war can be adequately secured. Without that link between the civilian statesman, who is the Parliamentary ruler of the Army, and the professional soldier, who is Commander-in-Chief, the nation can have no sound guarantee that the Army they pay for is always efficient, and always ready in every respect for that conversion from a peaceful to a war footing which we describe as " mobilisation."

In what I have said I have endeavoured to avoid all reference to individuals, or to particular instances that would illustrate my meaning. I hope my reasons for doing so may not be misinterpreted, but I feel bound to say that the records of the War Office will be found to fully bear out all I have asserted. I end as I began, by imploring the House to seriously consider the essentially unbusinesslike system under which the military forces of the Crown are now administered.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (The Marquess of LANSDOWNE): I wish, in the first place, to notice a gentle remonstrance which the noble Duke on the back benches addressed to me at the opening of his speech. He made it a subject of complaint that in the year 1895, when I had presented a somewhat concise description of the operation of the Order in Council of that year, I held out hopes of following it up with a fuller statement, and that I had disappointed that expectation. I am quite unconscious of having given that pledge, but if I did, and if it remained unfulfilled, it was perfectly open to the noble Duke to remind me of it in any of the years which have since elapsed, and to ask me to make it good. But the suggestion that we are unduly secretive in these matters is, I think, disposed of by the Parliamentary Paper which contains not only the Order in Council of 1895, but a full account of the duties of the various departments of the War Office, and the rules of procedure under which its work is done. If the noble Duke will study that Paper, he will find that it deals with many of the points which he has raised.

I pass to the statement to which we have just listened from the cross benches. Although we may not all of us entirely agree with what fell from the noble and gallant Viscount, I am sure that we are all of us glad to feel that the self-imposed muzzle which he has worn for the last five years no longer prevents him from taking part in our debates, to which his great experience and authority cannot fail to contribute weight and information. I wish to confirm the statement that fell from him with regard to the nature of our personal relations during the five years in which we were employed together at the War Office. I do not know whether the Chamber which intervened between that of the noble and gallant Viscount and my own was the scene of such a fast and furious traffic as now appears to pass through it; but we constantly met, and I can honestly say that, so far as I am aware, no important question of Army administration was ever dealt with by me without reference to the noble and gallant Viscount. To-night he has touched upon the difficult and delicate question of the relations of the Commander-in-Chief and the Secretary of State, and of the relations of both those high officials to the heads of the great departments of the War Office. The subject is one about which much has been said and written. It is a subject full of difficulty and perplexity; but I think that those who have listened to the speeches of the noble Duke and the noble and gallant Viscount must have felt that the real issue involved to-night is a comparatively plain and simple one.

The issue raised is this: Are we once again to centralise in the Commander-in-Chief of the Army the whole of the responsibility for all the enormous and various work which is conducted in the War Office? Are we going to deprive the great experts of the War Office of the responsibility which now adheres to them for the advice which they give to the Secretary of State? Are we going to deny to the Secretary of State the right to obtain expert advice at first hand from these high officials? That really is the broad and simple issue which has been raised. The answer to these questions must be in the negative. I am perfectly willing to admit that the system introduced in 1895 may be regarded as to some extent experimental, and that the experience of five years, culminating in the experience of a great war, may lead us to the conclusion that certain changes in that system are necessary. It may be that we shall do well to give back to the Commander-in-Chief certain powers which were withheld from him in 1895. It may be, on the other hand, that we shall do well to take away from his immediate control certain portions of office work which are now immediately under him. But those are, comparatively, matters of detail, and I will not attempt to anticipate the statement which will, no doubt, before long be made elsewhere by the Secretary of State for War. But on the main principle of enabling the Secretary of State to obtain the advice of his experts at first hand—upon the main principle, I for one am not willing to listen to any proposals involving the reversal of the present system and a return to the old system of 1888.

My Lords, the noble and gallant Viscount went somewhat minutely into the history of the various changes which have been made in the organisation of the War Office. I am not going at this hour to follow him, but I wish to impress this on your Lordships, that the system of 1888, to which he wishes to revert, is not in any sense consecrated by long usage or justified by experience. It was a system introduced in 1888, in which year the office of Surveyor General of Ordnance, which was held by a civilian, a Member of the House of Commons, was done away with and the three high officials, dealing with works, ordnance, and the supply of the Army, were placed under the immediate control of the Commander-in-Chief. The result of that change was to effect a stupendous centralisation of responsibility in the person of the Commander-in-Chief. You had at the head of this immense system His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge, who for so long presided over the Army, and who certainly was not regarded, even by those who most valued his great abilities, as in any sense an expert upon all the subjects with which the War Office has to deal. Under the Commander-in-Chief and above the great heads of departments there came the Adjutant General, again an officer who was not necessarily an expert, so that the advice of those who were really experts—experts as to works, experts as to fortifications, and as to supplies—had to percolate to the Secretary of State, first through the Adjutant General and then through the Commander-in-Chief. What was the result? The Secretary of State could not get expert advice upon all these questions from the Commander-in-Chief, and the true experts had no right to give such advice. Of course he got it occasionally, but he got it *sub rosa*. There were informal consultations between the Secretary of State and the heads of departments. Surely if there are to be consultations of that kind, is it not clear, is it not far better, that they should be aboveboard?

VISCOUNT WOLSELEY: Under the system of 1888, and even prior to that, so far as I know, the Secretary of State had the power, which he very often exercised, of sending for any military officer and asking for his advice on any topic that he wished to inquire about.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: Exactly; but when the military officer gave that advice he gave it without responsibility. The responsible adviser was not the expert for whom the Secretary of State sent; the sole responsible adviser was the Commander-in-Chief. That is the great difference between the two systems. My Lords, the system of 1888 was almost universally condemned. It was condemned in the press and it was condemned in Parliament, and the disfavour with which it was met led to the appointment of the Hartington Commission. The noble and gallant Viscount was severe on the composition of the Hartington Commission. We know how difficult it is to find suitable gentlemen to take part in these inquiries. I have noticed lately that whenever an inquiry is called for, what is most desired by the public is that we should get away from professional people and go to what are described as men of business—men of common sense. Now, my Lords, if ever there was a Royal Commission on which common sense might be said to abound it was, I should think, the Hartington Commission. I will not, in the presence of the noble Duke, suggest that he is conspicuous for that quality; but he was at the head of the Commission, and he was aided by Mr. W. H. Smith, pre-eminently a man of business, and a man looked up to by all who knew him for the soundness and vigour of his judgment; by Lord Randolph Churchill, a man of extraordinary brilliancy and originality; by Sir Henry Campbell Bannerman, formerly Financial Secretary to the War Office, and subsequently Secretary of State for War; by Sir Richard Temple, an Indian administrator of well-known experience; by Admiral Richards, who was able to bring to the Commission a thorough knowledge of the affairs of the Admiralty—a Department which is so often held up to us for admiration; and, finally, by Mr. Ismay, a well-known shipbuilder. It is true there was only one soldier upon it, but the Commission took military evidence by the acre, and it was the Report of that Commission which led to the Order in Council of 1895. I will quote a few lines from the Report of the Commission. The Commissioners say—

> "We consider that a definite and direct responsibility to the Secretary of State should be pleced on the heads of departments for their several administration, as is the case with the Naval Lords at the Admiralty. Under the present system the only real responsibility appears to rest on the Commander-in-Chief, who alone would be accountable to the Secretary of State, even for such a matter as the defective design of a heavy gun. We do not find that this centralisation of responsibility exists in the administration of the armies of any of the Great Powers of Europe, and we consider that it cannot conduce to efficiency. The professional officers administering departments in the War Office should, therefore, be made directly responsible to the Secretary of State for the efficiency of those departments and for the economical expenditure of the sums annually allotted to them."

It became our duty to deal with that Report. When we came into office we found that our predecessors had made considerable progress in framing a scheme founded upon it, and I do not think that when the Order in Council was introduced there was any great difference of opinion between the two parties in Parliament with regard to the course to be adopted. We gave to each of the heads of departments that responsibility which the Hartington Commission desired to impose upon them, and to the Commander-in-Chief we gave the supreme command of the Army, the right of general supervision, and we gave him, at the same time, extremely important duties of his own to perform. My experience of the system does not agree with the experience of the noble Viscount. I believe, on the contrary, that the system has worked well during the last five or six years, and I believe if there were, as there no doubt have been, failures and mistakes during the South African War, they were not due to the system of 1895, but due, if anything, to the fact that that system was not carried out as faithfully as it might have been.

The noble Viscount suggested to us that we were able to keep a force of over 200,000 men in the field not on account of any merits in the system, but because of the devotion of the Headquarters Staff of the Army in those trying times. I gladly join my witness as to the devotion with which our colleagues worked; but does the noble Viscount forget that every important step and decision affecting the army in the field in South Africa was considered by the Army Board which was introduced as part of the machinery of the scheme of 1895, an Army Board of which he himself, under our rules of procedure, was the president, and which, therefore, gave him an opportunity at every step of keeping his finger on the pulse of what was being done and seeing that it was done properly, and that the departments did not act in ignorance one of the other? That part of the indictment of the noble Viscount has signally failed, because I think we may claim that if anything was well done—and some things were not badly done—it was done under the system introduced in 1895. The description which he gave of the position assigned to him under the Order in Council was, if he will permit me to say so, a travesty of the actual facts. He repeated more than once that under the Order in Council the command of the Army had passed away from him to the civilian Secretary of State for War. My Lords, I am constrained to say that that is a mere rhetorical phrase. None of the attributes of the Secretary of State for War can be properly described as involving anything like command. Under the Order in Council the command of the Army is in so many words conferred upon the Commander-in-Chief: all Army Orders are issued by him. He is the principal adviser of the Secretary of State for War. He is charged with the distribution of the Army at home and abroad, with the preparation and maintenance of plans for the mobilisation of the Regular and Auxiliary Forces, with the preparation of schemes of offensive and defensive operations; he is charged with the appointment to commissions, promotions, honours, and rewards; and the Military Secretary, who is his immediate subordinate—not supervised by him, but under his control—deals with the admission of candidates for the Army and that great and important question of the education of the Army which the noble and gallant Viscount suggested had been taken away from his cognisance.

Viscount WOLSELEY: I laid more stress on the training than on the education of the Army.

*The Marquess of LANSDOWNE: I suggest that the duties thus assigned to the Commander-in-Chief, far from being inadequate and insufficient, are duties so vast and important that one is rather inclined to the belief that he would find them of a positively overwhelming character. I have, indeed, heard it suggested that too much work and not too little was thrown by the Order in Council upon the Commander-in-Chief. Yet the noble and gallant Viscount suggested that we had succeeded in practically abolishing the office of Commander-in-Chief. My noble friend the Under Secretary for War made use of an expression which summed up aptly this part of the case. He told your Lordships that the supervision exercised by the Commander-in-Chief, which the noble and gallant Viscount so much derided, was "exactly what the Commander-in-Chief chooses to make it." My complaint of the noble and gallant Viscount is that he chose to make his supervision a great deal smaller than it really was, and that he has persisted in and acted upon that most erroneous belief. He may have wished to give the system a fair trial, but I am compelled to say that he did not

I think if he had been a little more ready to take advantage of the great opportunities placed within his reach he would not have made those complaints. My Lords, what are those opportunities? The Commander-in-Chief is a member of the War Office Council, at which important questions are discussed in the Secretary of State's presence. He is president of the Army Board, at which other important questions are discussed. It is laid down in the rules of business that all important Papers are to be laid before him, and he has an absolute right, of his own motion, to call for any Paper he pleases or to initiate any proposal he may think desirable. The noble and gallant Viscount did occasionally initiate proposals having reference to all the different departments of the War Office. But our complaint of him was that he did so fitfully, and only when the spirit moved him. If he had watched his opportunities more carefully, things might have been somewhat different. If he had paid more attention to the duties assigned to him by the Order in Council, he might, for example, have enabled us to turn to better account that large number of auxiliary forces that we have in this country, and which I am constrained to say have been not a little neglected during the last five years. I think that if he had paid more attention to that part of the regulations which requires him to prepare schemes of offensive and defensive operations he would, perhaps, have told us, before the South African War, that Ladysmith was not a very suitable military station for Her Majesty's forces to occupy. He might even, if he had paid rather more attention to these questions, have warned us that it would take more than one army corps to subjugate the two South African Republics.

My Lords, I say it with regret, but I say it with a strong conviction that I am only saying what is true, that the noble and gallant Viscount failed to take into account the immense importance of the special duties assigned to him by the Order in Council, and assigned to him not in common with other officers of the War Department, but as duties for which he alone was responsible to the Government. I know he was under a misapprehension, because, on the very eve of my departure from the War Office, I had an opportunity of considering a paper written by the noble Viscount on the subject which he has brought before us to-night, and I found, to my intense surprise, that in the enumeration of his duties contained in that paper he omitted altogether to mention that he was responsible for the mobilisation of the Army, that the Intelligence Department was under his special control, and that he was charged with the preparation of schemes of offence and defence.

THE EARL OF NORTHBROOK: Is the paper which the noble Marquess has quoted going to be laid on the Table ?

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: I have no objection.

VISCOUNT WOLSELEY: What paper are you referring to ?

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: A minute of the noble and gallant Viscount's.

VISCOUNT WOLSELEY: Addressed to whom ?

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: A minute addressed to the Prime Minister. It is impossible to listen to the two speeches of the noble Duke and the noble and gallant Viscount without feeling that the real grievance which has rankled in the mind of the noble Viscount is that the heads of departments in the War Office are given direct access to the Secretary of State——

VISCOUNT WOLSELEY: I assure the noble Marquess that I have no grievance of any sort or kind of a personal character.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: It may be an impersonal grievance, but I will call it his complaint of the system introduced in 1895, and the gravamen of his charge is that under that system the heads of departments are constituted the responsible advisers of the Secretary for War. I think that is accurate. That I hold to be absolutely essential. The Secretary for War has to defend in Parliament proposals involving the expenditure of millions of public money for such things as the supply of the Army, equipment, and artillery, barracks, and other works; and it is absolutely necessary, to my mind, that he should be fortified by the advice of experts, given not through two or three other members of the Headquarters Staff, but given to him directly, and with a full sense that the giver of the advice is responsible for that which he advises. The noble and gallant Viscount made a great deal of the argument that the present system involved over centralisation in the person of the Secretary for War. I think his suggestion was that that was an infinitely more dangerous kind of centralisation than the old centralisation in the person of the Commander-in-Chief. Let us consider that argument for a moment. There is all the difference in the world between the two kinds of centralisation. Centralisation in the Secretary for War is in a sense inevitable, because he and no one else is responsible to Parliament for the affairs of the Army. You must therefore have a certain amount of convergence of responsibility in him. But there is another aspect of the question. Centralisation under the Commander-in-Chief means centralisation in one who is a soldier and an expert. Centralisation under the Secretary of State means centralisation in one who is not a soldier, and has no pretension to be an expert. Consider the difference in the position, let us say, of the Director General of Ordnance when he comes, as the case may be, to the Secretary of State. He finds an official who is not his military superior and who has no pretension to expert knowledge. If he comes to the Commander-in-Chief he has to do with a member of his own profession, who is senior to him, and from whom, with that strong feeling of discipline which is prevalent among soldiers, he may be extremely reluctant to differ.

Who is likely of the two to get at the real opinion of the expert adviser, the Commander-in-Chief or the Secretary of State ? I venture to think the expert is far more likely to give his advice fully and freely to the civilian than he is to his military superior.

Something has been said by the noble and gallant Viscount as to the practice of the War Office with regard to correspondence. I think the Under Secretary for War dealt sufficiently with that point. He was perfectly correct in saying that in 1899 I had proposed that letters going out from the War Office should be written in the name of the heads of the different departments of the office. I was met by strong military objections, and I abandoned the proposal, with the result that the present system was introduced, and although the noble and gallant Viscount suggests that the present procedure leads to letters on purely military questions being addressed to distinguished officers by the civilian Secretary of State, he will remember that, although the letter is written by the instructions of the Secretary of State, the formula used (if my memory serves me right) is that he intimates to the recipient of the letter that the view or the decision of the Commander-in-Chief is so and so. There is no attempt to suppress the authority of the Commander-in-Chief, and in all purely military cases it is his authority and not that of the civilian official that is always invoked.

With regard to letters addressed to the War Office. If an officer in a district were expected to address his letters, not, as now, to the Under Secretary for War, but to the particular department which had to deal with the subject of the letter, I am afraid that there would be perpetual confusion, because, as the noble and gallant Viscount himself told us, in such cases you are very often concerned with perhaps two or three departments, and the person who writes the letter may have considerable difficulty in deciding as to the manner in which it should be addressed. I remember that was brought very strongly before me when the question was discussed. But these are comparatively small matters. In regard to such matters I, for one, am entirely in favour of doing all that is possible to meet military sentiment, and if any improvement in the procedure can be devised I shall join with the noble and gallant Viscount in welcoming it very heartily.

The Marquess of Lansdowne.

In another part of the statement of the noble Viscount he told the House that he thought it was extremely necessary in the interests of public safety that when the Commander-in-Chief and the Secretary of State for War were unable to agree the public should be taken into our confidence, and that we should leave the public, as it were, to choose between the two. I am afraid that that is somewhat a council of perfection. Does the noble and gallant Viscount think that the government of this country would be possible, that the administration of the War Office would be practicable, if, whenever the Secretary of State and the Commander-in-Chief were not at one, their arguments were to be publicly paraded and to form the subject of controversies in the press or on the platform ? I cannot conceive a more fatal arrangement than that there should be disputes of this kind in the eye of the public. The noble and gallant Viscount is a great supporter of a very popular institution called the Military Tournament. I should be very sorry if the Secretary of State were obliged to take part in a military tournament of the kind which the noble and gallant Viscount suggests.

Of course, it is the case, and it always will be the case, that there will be differences between the civilian officials at the War Office and the military officials. It will be so to the end of time. I do not think that the noble and gallant Viscount has very much to complain of in regard to the manner in which his military demands were dealt with while I had the honour of serving with him. The Estimates, at any rate, rose during his five years from £18,000,000 to £21,500,000 sterling ; and at his invitation we added to the strength of the British Army no less than 25,000 soldiers. Of course the noble and gallant Viscount did not always get what he wanted, and I do not think I am wrong in saying that he certainly did not always expect to get what he wanted. At any rate, I know that when he and I used to take stock after the preparation of the annual Budget, he always accepted gratefully and philosophically the substantial additions which I was able to procure for him, and that he never suggested to me that any of our failures to concede his demands in full involved results fatal to the efficiency of the British Army. I will not, at this hour of the night, attempt to follow the noble and gallant Viscount through the other points upon which he touched in his long statement; but I will merely say that in my opinion he is too apt to forget the limitations which our Parliamentary institutions place upon us, that he has failed correctly to apprehend the bearing of the system introduced in 1895, and that because he failed to apprehend it he did not turn to account the great opportunities which that system placed within his reach. In my opinion the system of 1895 was in principle a perfectly sound system, and I sincerely trust that, whatever may be done hereafter, we shall not revert to the discredited and, as I believe, disastrous system which prevailed between the year 1888 and the year 1895.

The further debate was adjourned (on the motion of the Earl of NORTHBROOK) till To-morrow.

LONDON UNDERGROUND RAILWAYS.

Moved to resolve, "That it is desirable that a Select Committee be appointed to join with a Committee of the House of Commons to consider and report—

1. Whether the lines of route for underground railways in and near London, proposed by Bills which have been or may be introduced during the present Session, are best calculated to afford facilities for present and probable future traffic; and, if not, what modifications of those lines of route are desirable.
2. What special provisions, if any, should be made for the protection of the owners, lessees, and occupiers of properties adjacent to underground railways from possible damage and annoyance.
3. What special terms and conditions, if any, as to construction and working should be imposed upon the promoters.
4. Whether any, and which, of the schemes proposed by the said Bills should not be proceeded with during the present Session."

—(*The Chairman of Committees.*)

Agreed to. Ordered that a message be sent to the Commons to communicate this resolution, and to desire their concurrence.

COMMITTEE OF SELECTION FOR THE STANDING COMMITTEE.

Report from, That the Committee have nominated the following Lords to serve as Chairmen of the Standing Committee:—

E. Halsbury. (*Lord Chancellor.*)
E. Spencer.
E. Morley.
E. Camperdown
V. Cross.
L. Elgin. (*E. Elgin and Kincardine.*)

Read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

THE IMPERIAL YEOMANRY—RIDING TEST.

THE MARQUESS OF AILESBURY: My Lords, I beg to ask His Majesty's Government whether it is a fact that men who had failed for the Imperial Yeomanry when that force was first raised, on account of not being sufficiently proficient in riding, have been debarred from again competing, although many have in the interval devoted time and money to improving their horsemanship; and, if so, why.

LORD RAGLAN: In answer to the noble Marquess, I have to inform him that we have no knowledge of men being debarred for the reason mentioned in his question. No orders have been given to that effect. The matter rests entirely with the recruiting officer, subject to approval. If a case is brought to forward I shall be glad to make inquiries.

House adjourned at ten minutes past Eight of the clock till To-morrow, half-past Ten of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, 4th March, 1901.

Two other Members took and subscribed the Oath.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS (STANDING ORDER 62 COMPLIED WITH).

MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order No. 62 has been complied with, viz. :—

Devonport Gas and Coke Bill.
Glasgow and Renfrew District Railway Transfer Bill.
North British Railway Bill.
Thames Deep Water Dock Bill.

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time.

PRIVATE BILLS (PETITION FOR ADDITIONAL PROVISION) (STANDING ORDERS NOT COMPLIED WITH).

MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the Petition for additional Provision in the following Bill, the Standing Orders have not been complied with, viz. :—

London, Tilbury, and Southend Railway Bill.

Ordered, That the Report be referred to the Select Committee on Standing Orders.

BEXLEY TRAMWAYS BILL.

"To empower the Urban District Council of Bexley to construct and work tramways; and for other purposes," read the first time; to be read a second time.

CAMBRIAN RAILWAYS BILL.

"To authorise the Cambrian Railways Company to extend their railway at Pwllheli; to construct a fixed instead of an opening bridge over the River Dovey; to grant further powers to that company in respect of the use of steam vessels; and for other purposes," read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

SOUTH YORKSHIRE ELECTRIC POWER BILL.

"For incorporating and conferring powers on the South Yorkshire Electric Power Company; and for other purposes," read the first time; to be read a second time.

ALDEBURGH CORPORATION (WATER) BILL.

BINGLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL BILL.

BLACKBURN CORPORATION BILL.

BRADFORD CORPORATION BILL.

BRIGHTON CORPORATION BILL.

BURY CORPORATION BILL.

BURY CORPORATION TRAMWAYS BILL.

BURTON-UPON-TRENT CORPORATION BILL.

CALEDONIAN ELECTRIC POWER BILL.

CARDIFF CORPORATION BILL.

CLEVELAND AND DURHAM COUNTY ELECTRIC POWER BILL.

CLYDE VALLEY ELECTRICAL POWER BILL.

COLWYN BAY AND COLWYN URBAN DISTRICT GAS BILL.

DERBY CORPORATION BILL.

DERBYSHIRE AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ELECTRIC POWER BILL.

DEVONPORT CORPORATION (GAS) BILL.

DERWENT VALLEY WATER BOARD BILL.

ECCLES CORPORATION BILL.

HARTLEPOOLS GAS AND WATER TRANSFER BILL.

HECKMONDWIKE GAS (TRANSFER) BILL.

HONLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL (GAS) BILL.

HUMBER COMMERCIAL RAILWAY AND DOCK BILL.

ILKESTON AND HEANOR WATER BOARD BILL.

IRISH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH BILL.

Read a second time, and committed.

KETTERING URBAN DISTRICT WATER BILL.

KINGSTON-UPON-HULL CORPORATION BILL.

LLANDRINDOD WELLS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL WATER BILL.

LONDON BRIDGE WIDENING BILL.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL (GENERAL POWERS) BILL.

MANSFIELD CORPORATION BILL.

NEATH HARBOUR BILL.

NEWRY PORT AND HARBOUR TRUST BILL.

PAISLEY POLICE AND PUBLIC HEALTH BILL.

PEMBROKE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL (COUNTY OF DUBLIN) BILL.

PETERSFIELD AND SELSEY GAS BILL.

RHYL IMPROVEMENT BILL.

SHANNON WATER AND ELECTRIC POWER BILL.

SHIREOAKS, LAUGHTON, AND MALTBY RAILWAY BILL.

SOUTHAMPTON AND WINCHESTER GREAT WESTERN JUNCTION RAILWAY BILL.

STALYBRIDGE, HYDE, MOSSLEY, AND DUKINFIELD TRAMWAYS AND ELECTRICITY BOARD BILL.

SWANAGE GAS AND WATER BILL.

TEES VALLEY WATER BOARD BILL.

THAMES PIERS AND RIVER SERVICE BILL.

WALLASEY IMPROVEMENT BILL.

WELLS CORPORATION WATER BILL.

WOLVERHAMPTON AND CANNOCK CHASE RAILWAY BILL.

YORKSHIRE ELECTRIC POWER BILL.

Read a second time, and committed.

MORTON CARR DRAINAGE.

Petition, and Bill ordered to be brought in by Sir Frederick Milner and Mr. Faber.

PETITIONS.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (HIGHER GRADE AND EVENING CONTINUATION SCHOOLS).

Petitions for alteration of Law, from Kingston-upon-Hull; Ipswich; Enfield; Shipley; Ilford; Newcastle-upon-Tyne; Wellingborough; and Kettering; to lie upon the Table.

GABINDDAS.

Petition from Gabinddas, for redress of grievances; to lie upon the Table.

POOR LAW OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1896.

Petitions for alteration of Law, from Barnes; Ham; Heston and Isleworth; Ipswich; and Kingston-upon-Hull; to lie upon the Table.

SAHU, JUGRUP.

Petition from Jugrup Sahu, for redress of grievances; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY BILL.

Petition from Leighton Buzzard, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Leighton Buzzard; and Rotherham; to lie upon the Table.

VACCINATION ACTS.

Petition from London, for repeal; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

MILITIA ACT, 1882 (DEPUTY LIEUTENANTS, IRELAND).

Copy presented, of Return of descriptions of qualifications of Deputy Lieutenants lodged during 1900, as furnished to the Secretary for Ireland [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW.

Copy presented, of Abstract of Accounts of the University of Glasgow for the year ending 30th September, 1900 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 70.]

COMMONS ACT, 1876 (SKIPWITH, EAST RIDING OF YORK).

Copy presented, of Report by the Board of Agriculture upon an application for Provisional Orders for the Regulation of the Common and for the Inclosure of the Open Fields, respectively, at Skipwith, in the East Riding of the county of York [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 71.]

COMMONS ACT, 1876 (SUTTON, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE).

Copy presented, of Report by the Board of Agriculture upon an application for a Provisional Order for the Inclosure of the Open Fields and the Heath and Wastes in the parish of Sutton, in the county of Northampton [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 72.]

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (INCLOSURE, ETC., EXPENSES ACT, 1868).

Copy presented, of Fees to be taken in respect of Transactions under the Agricultural Holdings Acts, 1883 to 1900, in accordance with the provisions of The Inclosure, etc., Expenses Act, 1868 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

ECCLESIASTICAL COMMISSION.

Copy presented, of Fifty-third Report from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England, with an Appendix [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

PAUPERISM (ENGLAND AND WALES) (HALF-YEARLY STATEMENTS).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 1st March; *Mr. Grant Lawson*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 73.]

WOODS, FORESTS, AND LAND REVENUES.

Abstract Accounts presented, for the year ended 31st March, 1900, together with the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 74.]

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS IN RECEIPT OF PUBLIC MONEY.

Return ordered, "showing the names of present Members of the House of Commons who are in receipt of Public Money from any public source, whether in the form of Salary, Pay, Pension, or Allowance of any kind, or who have received Commutation in respect thereof under the Commutation Acts; the amount they receive or have commuted, with the amount of the Commutation Money; and the name of the Office or nature of the Service for which the Money is or has been paid (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 197, of Session 1897)."—(*Mr. Fenwick.*)

QUESTIONS.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—ALLEGED BOER RECRUITING IN BELGIUM.

MR. THOMAS DEWAR (Tower Hamlets, St. George's): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he is aware that Boer agents are actively engaged throughout Belgium enlisting recruits for the Boer forces; and whether the Government have taken or intend to take any steps by friendly representations to the Belgian Government, or otherwise, to prevent a continuance of same.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (MR. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): I have to say that we have received no information which leads us to think that recruiting of the kind referred to by my hon. friend is being carried on.

JAMESON RAID—CHARTERED COMPANY'S LIABILITY.

*MR. ALFRED DAVIES (Carmarthen Boroughs): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he can inform the House if the claim of the late Transvaal Government against the Chartered Company in respect of the Jameson raid is a British asset; and, if so, whether he intends taking action against the Company for its recovery; and, if no action is to be taken, will he explain the ground for so acting.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir M. HICKS BEACH, Bristol, W.) rose to answer the question.

*MR. ALFRED DAVIES: May I rise to order, Sir? I should like to postpone this question until to-morrow, when, I trust, the Secretary of State for the Colonies will be here. I do not want a repetition of last week.

SIR M. HICKS BEACH: If the hon. Member will allow me to explain, I think I can satisfy him. My right hon. friend is unable to be here to-day—[An IRISH MEMBER: He is in the smoke-room]—but he has sent me his answer. Will that satisfy the hon. Gentleman?

*Mr. ALFRED DAVIES: Yes, that will do.

Sir M. HICKS BEACH: The claim of the South African Republic against the British South Africa Company was for £1,677,938 3s. 3d., including one million for moral and intellectual damage. This claim Her Majesty's Government declined to entertain as not being reasonable. The question whether the direct loss proved to have been suffered by the South African Republic in consequence of the raid can now be recovered from the British South Africa Company by His Majesty's Government or by the Government of the Colony, as successor to the South African Republic, is a question on which I am seeking the advice of the law officers. On receipt of their opinion His Majesty's Government will take the whole matter into consideration, and will communicate, if necessary, with Sir Alfred Milner and with the British South Africa Company.

*Mr. ALFRED DAVIES: May I ask why the Secretary for the Colonies is not here?

Sir M. HICKS BEACH: I will tell the hon. Gentleman. Because it was necessary for my right hon. friend to consult the Prime Minister on a matter of great importance.

*Mr. ALFRED DAVIES: But as a matter of fact is not the right hon. Gentleman in the smoke-room now?

*Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order!

Captain DONELAN (Cork, E.): May I ask——

*Mr. SPEAKER: The question on the Paper has been fully answered.

Sir JOHN BRUNNER (Cheshire, Northwich): May I ask whether the right hon. Gentleman will be good enough to be careful not lightly to give up this claim for the reason——

*Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order!

FALSE ANNOUNCEMENTS ON NEWSPAPER CONTENTS BILLS.

Major RASCH (Essex, Chelmsford): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney General whether his attention has been called to placards published by a London paper on 28th February, to the following effect: "Surrender of Botha, Official, *Sun*"; and whether, as newsvendors are prosecuted for crying false information, he proposes to take any steps against the proprietors of this paper.

The SECRETARY of STATE for the HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. Ritchie, Croydon): I have been asked by my hon. and learned friend to answer this question. Newsvendors can only be prosecuted for obtaining, or attempting to obtain, money by false pretences, which is the case when it is proved that they knowingly call out news not contained in the paper they are trying to sell. I am advised that it is not likely that proceedings, if taken against the proprietors for obtaining or attempting to obtain money by false pretences, would be successful in this case. I may add that I have received from the editor of the *Sun* a letter, in which he expresses his deep regret for the occurrence, and says that—

> "The news came to the *Sun* on authority which has never before failed us. . . The addition of the word 'official' was the result of a stupid misunderstanding among the staff, one of whom is now no longer in the service of the *Sun*."

Mr. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny): Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that these "spots" on the *Sun* are very common in London papers?

[No answer was returned.]

BRITISH REVERSES—COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF'S REPORTS.

*Mr. WINSTON CHURCHILL (Oldham): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether, and, if so, when, he will inform the House what were the actual circumstances of the surrenders at Nicholson's Nek, Reddersburg, and other unsuccessful actions in South Africa; and what is the report of the Commander-in-Chief thereupon.

The SECRETARY of STATE for WAR (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guild.

ford): The Commander-in-Chief does not consider it desirable to make a special report on each of the unsuccessful actions in South Africa, but he has taken steps to deal suitably in each case with the officers in fault.

*Mr. WINSTON CHURCHILL: On what ground was an exception made in the case of the action at Sanna's Post?

Mr. BRODRICK: A special report was made in regard to that action, and in his original despatch Lord Roberts alluded to that as a separate despatch which he would publish.

*Sir CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): Are we to understand that we are not to take the answer just given as going back in any sense from the promise made lately in debate on this subject?

Mr. BRODRICK: Certainly not.

PAARDEBERG OPERATIONS.

Mr. DILLON (Mayo, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been directed to the concluding paragraph in Lieut.-General Kelly-Kenny's Report to Lord Roberts, dated 20th February, 1900, on the operations at Paardeberg; whether, as a matter of fact, Lord Kitchener did direct the operations at Paardeberg Drift on the 18th February by suggestions to General Kelly-Kenny; and who is held responsible by the War Office and the Commander-in-Chief for the conduct of those operations.

Mr. BRODRICK: Yes, Sir. I had that paragraph in my mind in the answers I gave last week, and I have nothing to add to them. General Kelly-Kenny is directly responsible for these operations, but the Commander-in-Chief takes full responsibility for what occurred.

Mr. DILLON: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that, according to the statement of *The Times* correspondent, General Kelly-Kenny telegraphed to Lord Roberts and received a reply from Lord Roberts to the effect that if more than one brigade were engaged Lord Kitchener was in command and he must take his orders from him?

Mr. BRODRICK: I have explained the exact position of General Kelly-Kenny and I have nothing to add. Lord Kitchener was empowered by Lord Roberts to offer advice. He thought fit to do so from time to time, and General Kelly-Kenny accepted the advice.

BLOEMFONTEIN HOSPITALS.

Mr. BURDETT-COUTTS (Westminster): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that No. 8 General Hospital, one of the two largest hospitals at Bloemfontein, has remained on the same site for over ten months, the ground being thoroughly infected with enteric poison in consequence of the number of enteric cases treated there during and since the epidemic of last year; whether, in view of the increased rate of mortality from enteric in South Africa, immediate inquiry will be made as to why this hospital camp, in accordance with recognised principles of sanitation, should not have been long since moved to an entirely new site; and whether he can give the number of cases admitted to this hospital and the number of enteric deaths in it during each of the six months ending 31st January.

Mr. BRODRICK: I am informed that this hospital has remained on the same site for ten months, but there appears to be no reason for anxiety as the site has been reported to be perfect, and the sanitary reports up to the 18th January state that the general sanitary conditions were good. The figures of this hospita are as follow:—

	Admissions.	Deaths.
August - -	220	3
September - -	154	–
October - -	26	1
November - -	49	5
December - -	61	3
January (to 25th)	93	12

The admissions in January are mostly of transfers from out-stations. The type of enteric fever is reported in January as severe, many of the cases being practically hopeless from the first. If any doubt is found to exist as to the sanitary condition I will undertake that the situation shall be changed.

CIVIL SURGEONS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

MR. BURDETT-COUTTS: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he will state with regard to the last fifty civilian surgeons and physicians engaged by the Royal Army Medical Staff Corps for employment in South Africa the length of time for which each had been legally qualified before being sent out.

MR. BRODRICK: Ten were qualified in 1901, ten in 1900, and nine in 1899. The remaining twenty-one have been qualified for varying periods going back as far as 1876.

SOLDIERS' PENSIONS.

MR. REGINALD LUCAS (Portsmouth): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he will consider the propriety of placing non-commissioned officers and private soldiers who have been rendered wholly or partially incapable of earning a livelihood by disease, clearly due to active service in the field, on the same footing for pension purposes as those who have been similarly incapacitated by wounds or injuries.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE WAR OFFICE (Lord STANLEY, Lancashire, Westhoughton): All such cases will be specially considered with a view to the grant of a pension on the scale contemplated. The scale is under consideration.

COST OF TRANSPORT OF HORSES TO THE CAPE.

MR. COCHRANE (Ayrshire, N.): I beg to ask the Financial Secretary to the War Office whether he will state the cost per head of transporting horses to the Cape from Great Britain, United States, Canada, Hungary, Australia, and Argentina respectively.

LORD STANLEY: The average prices of freight for horses to South Africa are as follows:—From Great Britain, £24 13s. 6d.; United States, £22 4s. 6d.; Canada, £23 14s. 4d.; Hungary, £21 5s. 7d.; Australia, £18; Argentina, £14 5s. 3d. The cost of conveying horses in transports to South Africa cannot be given.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): Does the Return for Great Britain include Irish horses?

LORD STANLEY: Yes, Sir.

REST FOR HORSES LANDED AT CAPE TOWN.

DR. SHIPMAN (Northampton): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether any steps are now being taken to insure sufficient rest being given to the horses landed at Cape Town, or other South African port, before they are sent on to the front, or otherwise employed in the service of the war.

MR. BRODRICK: I can assure the hon. Member that every care is being taken to secure the horses as long a rest as possible before going to the front. Lord Kitchener has recently informed me that he has got his supply of horses well in hand.

COMMISSIONS FOR THE YEOMANRY.

SIR JOSEPH LEIGH (Stockport): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether a Yeoman wishful to obtain a commission in the Regular Army can do so on the same terms as are allowed to the Militia, and whether active service at the front would be reckoned as of equal value in both cases.

MR. BRODRICK: Yeomen who have served in South Africa are eligible for any direct commissions which may be granted for service in South Africa. They are not, however, qualified to go up for the Militia competitive examination. Some commissions will be placed at Lord Kitchener's disposal for the benefit of Yeomen.

IMPERIAL YEOMANRY—ACCOMMODATION FOR RECRUITS AT ALDERSHOT.

COLONEL LOCKWOOD (Essex, Epping): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the men who have recently joined the Yeomanry and are now at Aldershot, holding themselves ready to proceed to the front, are without proper military boots and coats, and are rapidly developing pneumonia, and becoming generally unfit for service owing to the accommodation to which they have been subjected.

MR. BRODRICK: I must refer my hon. and gallant friend to a full reply on this subject which I gave to a question put by the hon. Member for the Basingstoke Division of Hants on Thursday last, the 28th ultimo.† I have since visited Aldershot, and in my opinion the authorities there have housed and equipped the very large number of Yeomanry who have arrived with a promptitude which deserves every commendation. The supply of men with all necessaries is proceeding at the rate of over 500 a day.

THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE'S YEOMANRY.

MAJOR RASCH: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been called to the stamp of men enlisting for the Duke of Cambridge's Yeomanry at 5s. per day; and whether this class of recruits justifies the additional rate of pay given.

*MR. BRODRICK: Those men who have been accepted for the Duke of Cambridge's Yeomanry are fully qualified according to the standards, and justify the additional rate of pay given. A large number of the persons who offered themselves for enlistment have been rejected. It should be remembered that the men are as a rule some years older than ordinary recruits, and therefore are at the best military age.

ENGLISH PURCHASE OF ARTILLERY IN GERMANY.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he can state on what Vote the field guns ordered from Germany will be charged.

*MR. BRODRICK: These have been charged to Vote 9 for 1900–1.

WOOLWICH ARSENAL—"EXERTION MONEY."

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.): I beg to ask the Financial Secretary to the War Office whether his attention has been called to a statement with reference to certain irregularities at Woolwich Arsenal in connection with the payments to principal foremen under the head of exertion money, and whether he will consider the advisability in the public interest of exercising increased supervision in order that sufficient money may be saved to raise the wages of the lowest paid Government labourers.

*LORD STANLEY: I have seen no statement of the kind, and those responsible in the Arsenal report that there are no grounds for the allegations in question in their respective departments. Special payments of exertion money will cease in the Ordnance Factories on the 31st instant.

SIR JOHN BRUNNER: What is "exertion money"?

[No answer was returned.]

ARBOR HILL BARRACKS, DUBLIN—CONTRACTS—FAIR WAGES CLAUSE.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick's): I beg to ask the Financial Secretary to the War Office whether he is aware that the contractor for extensive works at Ashurst Hill Barracks, Dublin, has subcontractors who do not carry out the Fair Wages Resolution or observe the hours of labour in preparing cut granite required for the work; and whether he will inquire into the complaint.

*LORD STANLEY: The contractor for the works at Arbor Hill Barracks—which are presumably those referred to by the hon. Member—buys his granite direct from a quarry in County Wicklow. On reference to the quarry in question, the General Commanding in Ireland is informed that the rate of wages current in the district where the stone is cut and dressed is duly paid.

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL STAFF CORPS — RECRUITING STANDARDS.

SIR WALTER FOSTER (Derbyshire, Ilkeston): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether, if a man offers himself as a recruit for the Royal Army Medical Staff Corps, he cannot be accepted if over 5 feet 5 inches in height, although he may be eligible in all other respects; and whether he is eligible for the Militia Medical Staff Corps and the St. John Ambulance Brigade if above that height.

*LORD STANLEY: A man if over 5 feet 5 inches in height could be accepted as a special recruit for the Royal Army Medical Corps, and, if he was a good and desirable man in every other way, would probably be accepted. A man of 5 feet 6 inches is not over standard for the Militia Medical Staff Corps, and would be accepted if found fit. I am not aware of the standards required for the St. John Ambulance Brigade.

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† See page 32.

ARMY TRAINING—RESPONSIBILITY OF ADJUTANT GENERAL.

Colonel WELBY (Taunton): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the Adjutant General, who by Orders in Council of 29th November, 1895, and 7th March, 1899, has been charged with the military education and training of the officers, warrant officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of the Regular and Reserve Forces and Militia of the United Kingdom, is responsible for the due performance of those duties direct to the Secretary of State, and whether general and other officers are forbidden to practise any system of training which has not received the sanction of the War Office.

*Mr. BRODRICK: The Adjutant General is charged with the military training of all ranks subject to the supervision of the Commander-in-Chief, who signs all orders regulating exercises. It is essential that one system of training should be in force throughout the Army. If, therefore, general or other officers consider that any change from the existing system is desirable, it is their duty to submit it for the consideration of the Commander-in-Chief, and not to put it into practice until it has received his sanction.

Colonel WELBY: Then am I right in understanding that the responsibility of the Adjutant-General is through the Commander-in-Chief, and not direct from the Secretary for War?

Mr. BRODRICK: My hon. and gallant friend is fond of propounding questions in a debateable manner. The responsibility of the Adjutant-General in the performance of his duties is, no doubt, direct to the Secretary of State, but he acts under the supervision of the Commander-in-Chief in such military questions, and, of course, carries out the directions of the Commander-in-Chief.

Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carnarvon Boroughs): May I ask whether, as a matter of fact, such a plan for the training of officers as has been indicated was submitted by the Adjutant-General to the Secretary of State for War; and whether that plan has been neglected both by the right hon. Gentleman and his predecessor?

Mr. BRODRICK: No, Sir; I am not aware of anything of the kind. Any plan submitted by the Adjutant-General through the Commander-in-Chief would be carefully considered.

Colonel WELBY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether, in the event of the proceedings of courts-martial or courts of inquiry on surrenders in South Africa, showing those surrenders to have resulted from defective or ineffectual training of officers and men despatched from the United Kingdom, steps will be taken to fully judge the system of training, and to hold those who have laid it down as sharing equally with the officers and men who have had to put it in practice the responsibility for those surrenders.

Mr. BRODRICK: It would be very difficult to draw any conclusions such as the hon. and gallant Member suggests from the courts-martial or courts of inquiry which have reported. The question of the training of the troops is being carefully considered by the Commander-in-Chief.

DECEASED SOLDIERS' SAVINGS—SERGEANT-MAJOR GARNER.

Colonel LOCKWOOD: I beg to ask the Financial Secretary to the War Office whether a man's regimental savings bank account is shown in his non-effective account, and has this item been rendered by the battery in the case of Sergeant-Major Garner; and whether the savings bank account of the battery has been submitted for audit since 1899.

At the same time, may I ask the Financial Secretary to the War Office whether the remainder of Sergeant-Major Garner's estate has been issued, as stated by the Financial Secretary; and, if so, has the non-effective account also been received, and on what date was the remainder of the estate issued; and, considering that eighteen months have elapsed since Sergeant-Major Garner's death, in justice to his widow, can inquiries be made by telegraph at the battery which is in standing camp at Natal.

LORD STANLEY: It appears that at the end of June, 1899, Sergeant-Major Garner had about £135 to his credit in his savings bank account. His non-effective account has not been received owing to the fact of his battery, which was engaged at Dundee, being unable to furnish the details. Enquiry has been made by telegram and every endeavour is being made to clear up the matter. The balance of money due to the Sergeant Major, with his war and discharge gratuities, has been provisionally issued, and although it is against all regulations I have authorised the payment of half the amount shown to be in the savings bank according to our last return.

IRISH LINEN KHAKI.

MR. DALY (Monaghan, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that at a recent meeting of the linen merchants of Belfast disappointment was expressed because the Government would not take linen khaki for the making of soldiers' clothing, and that linen is only one farthing per yard more than cotton khaki, although linen wears three times as long as cotton; and whether he will see that Irish linen gets the preference from this time forward for making soldiers' uniforms.

*MR. WILLIAM JOHNSTON (Belfast, S.): May I ask the Government to take this matter into their most favourable consideration, as it is one which excites great interest in Belfast?

LORD STANLEY: The attention of the Secretary of State has been drawn to this matter. The preference for cotton over linen khaki is due not only to the fact that the latter is more expensive, but also colder and less absorbent than the former. In view of the recent adoption of woollen drab serge for the service dress of the Army, it is very improbable that any large quantity of either cotton or linen khaki will be required hereafter by the War Department.

MR. DALY: Is it a fact that if Irish linen were used in the manufacture of soldiers' uniforms the constituents of the First Lord of the Treasury at Manchester would suffer?

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order!

ADMIRALTY CONTRACTS AT BARROW-IN-FURNESS.

MR. NANNETTI (Dublin, College Green): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether portions of the work for the furnishing and upholstering of the four ships building at Barrow-in-Furness for the Government has been sub-let, whether any of the work executed by some of these sub-contractors is of an unsatisfactory character, whether he is aware that the work have been carried out by boys and under-paid labour, and whether he will appoint an inspector to supervise and pass the work before paying for it; and whether sub-contracting is allowed by Government Departments in view of the Fair Wages Resolution of the House of Commons.

*THE CIVIL LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (MR. PRETYMAN, Suffolk, Woodbridge): The work of furnishing on these ships has not been sub-let. The upholstering work, included in the contract, comprises only a few cushions and curtains, and is sub-let to a local firm who have previously done similar work for His Majesty's ships. The answer to the second and third questions is in the negative. All such work is invariably supervised and passed by Admiralty overseers before it is paid for. Sub-contracting is allowed subject to Admiralty approval, and on condition that the responsibility of carrying out the work in a satisfactory manner, and that the wages paid shall be those generally accepted as current in each trade for competent workmen, remains with the principal contractor.

ROYAL VISIT TO THE COLONIES—PRESS ACCOMMODATION.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he is yet in a position to say what arrangements are made for the accommodation of representatives of the press on the ships of war that will accompany the Royal Mission to Australia, and to state what news agencies or newspapers will be allowed to send representatives.

*MR. PRETYMAN: The First Lord much regrets that it was not possible to find accommodation for all applicants; but careful inquiry showed that five berths at the utmost could be made available on the two cruisers. These places have accordingly been apportioned among the applicants. A decision could not be postponed, as the cruisers sail on Thursday next.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: Will you kindly say what agencies or papers are to get places?

*MR. PRETYMAN: Perhaps the hon. Gentleman will allow me to answer that question on the Supplementary Navy Estimate. I may, however, say that combinations have been arranged.

INDIA—PROPOSED NEW PROVINCE.

MR. SCHWANN (Manchester, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether the sanction of His Majesty's Government has been given to a scheme by which it is proposed to join four or five provinces peopled with Pathan tribes, all outside the Indian border, under the same military, political, and revenue administration as now obtains in four of our own British districts within the borders of India; and will the full Papers relating to this scheme be laid before Parliament at an early date.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Lord G. HAMILTON, Middlesex, Ealing): The Papers relating to this subject will be in the hands of Members in a few days, and they will show that the assumptions in the first question of the hon. Gentleman are erroneous.

CHINA—RUSSIA AND MANCHURIA.

*SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT (Sheffield, Ecclesall): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the Governments of Great Britain, Germany, and Japan have protested against the ratification by the Chinese Government of the agreement lately concluded between the representatives of Russia and China in Manchuria; whether that agreement, if carried out, would give Russia control of Manchuria to the exclusion of all other nations, would prevent the subjects of any other Power from obtaining concessions in Manchuria, and would place the trade and customs there under Russian control.

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Viscount CRANBORNE, Rochester): The question to which the hon. Member refers is engaging the earnest attention of His Majesty's Government, and has been the subject of diplomatic communications between the Powers. In the opinion of His Majesty's Government, any statement or discussion on the subject at the present moment would be inexpedient.

"KOWSHING" ARBITRATION.

SIR MARK STEWART (Kirkcudbrightshire): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he can give to the House any information as to the British steamer "Kowshing," sunk by the Japanese in their war with China; whether the Chinese offered to refer the case to arbitration; whether arbitration was accepted, and, if so, whether anything came of it before the commencement of the present hostilities; and whether he can give the House any assurance that the case will not be lost sight of, but that it will be included in the Bill of Indemnity to be paid at the end of the present war by the Chinese Government to this country.

*VISCOUNT CRANBORNE: The Chinese Government accepted the offer of Her Majesty's Government to refer the case to arbitration, and the terms of reference to the arbitrator were under discussion when the disturbances broke out in China. In the actual circumstances further delay is inevitable, but the case will certainly not be lost sight of. As it is to be decided by arbitration it is clear that there can be no question of payment until the arbitrator has given a decision.

ARABI PASHA.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether Arabi Pasha is to be allowed to return to Egypt from Ceylon.

*VISCOUNT CRANBORNE: No petition has recently been received from Arabi Pasha for leave to return to Egypt. If he were to make such a request the matter would be referred to the Egyptian Government for consideration.

METROPOLITAN STIPENDIARIES.

Mr. EUGENE WASON (Clackmannan and Kinross): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he will explain why he does not act upon the recommendation of the Report of the Departmental Committee of his predecessor in office and appoint an additional magistrate for the North London and South Western Police Courts; and whether he is aware that, as a consequence of there being only one magistrate appointed to these police courts instead of two, as in all other Metropolitan police courts, justice is frequently delayed by reason of the frequent demands that are made, consequent on the necessity of the same case having to be heard by a magistrate who can only attend the court occasionally.

*Mr. RITCHIE: This is a question which has been repeatedly under the consideration of my predecessors and of the Treasury. It has not hitherto been considered that the total number of days on which Metropolitan magistrates sit during the year are sufficient to justify the imposing on Imperial funds the cost of two additional magistrates. I am aware that considerable inconvenience arises of the nature referred to in the question. Provision has been made to lessen this as much as possible by an arrangement that the magistrates attached to other courts, who sit in turn at the two courts in question, shall, as far as possible, do so in consecutive weeks, and on the same day in these weeks.

THAMES POLICE—CHRISTMAS BOXES.

Mr. NANNETTI: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the recent reduction of ten third-class inspectors of the Thames Division of the Metropolitan Police to the rank of constables for a breach of the regulations will affect the pensions of the men, some of whom have been in the service for nearly a quarter of a century; and whether, in view of the severity of the punishment, he will order a fresh inquiry, with a view to a mitigation of the punishment.

*Mr. RITCHIE: The amount of these men's pensions will, of course, be contingent on the amount of their salary immediately previous to their retirement. Having made inquiry into the matter I see no reason at all for a reconsideration of the decision in their case.

Mr. NANNETTI: What was the offence actually committed by these men?

*Mr. RITCHIE: Certain constables, on one pretence or another, went along the river collecting money from various wharfingers. They were punished for it, and in the course of the inquiry it transpired that ten third-class inspectors had connived at the action and shared the spoils. They confessed to it. They were punished, and, I think, not too severely.

METROPOLITAN POLICE PAY.

Mr. LOUIS SINCLAIR (Essex, Romford): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is aware that the recent increase in allowances to the men of the Metropolitan and other borough police forces is causing dissatisfaction among the men of county police forces serving in many cases actually on the other side of the street, and who, although they have as great expenses and live under practically the same conditions, are yet debarred from the advances that have been made; and further, whether he will recommend county authorities to grant these special allowances to men serving in populous urban areas under the same conditions which prompted an advance to the Metropolitan and borough forces.

*Mr. RITCHIE: The existence of the dissatisfaction indicated has not come to my knowledge. But I may say at once that the matter is not one in which I could take the action suggested.

UNDERGROUND RAILWAYS IN LONDON.

Mr. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether, in case His Majesty's Government propose the appointment of a Committee to consider, in conjunction with a Committee of the other House, the best lines of route for underground railways in London, it will be proposed that all Bills for underground railways introduced in the present session shall be referred to such a Committee and whether, in the case of the appointment of such a Committee, His Majesty's Government will consider the desirability of letting the reference to it be sufficiently wide to allow the Committee to report upon the whole question of so arranging and connecting underground lines as to enable such lines to afford the maximum of relief to surface traffic, and to secure rapid transit from the central parts of London to the suburbs.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): Yes, Sir, I hope that the reference to the Committee will be so framed as to ensure that all the Bills of this session dealing with underground railways in London shall be laid before it, and also that the Committee shall be invited to report whether the lines of route proposed are best calculated to afford facilities for present and probable future traffic, and, if not, what modifications of those lines of route are desirable.

SKATING FATALITY ON COMPENSATION DAM, GREENOCK.

MR. JAMES REID (Greenock): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate if he is aware that a young man named John Kennedy was drowned on the 16th instant while skating on the reservoir known as Compensation Dam, Greenock; that the said reservoir is the property of the Water Trust of Greenock, but is within the police jurisdiction of the authorities of the county of Renfrew; that no police were present; that no life-saving apparatus was available; that those present who gallantly endeavoured to save the young man's life stated that if such apparatus had been available his life could have been saved; and that the said reservoir is largely used in time of frost by the inhabitants of Greenock and district; and if he will give such instructions as may probably prevent a recurrence of similar accidents.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire): As regards the lamentable accident referred to by the hon. Member, I understand, from a report which I have received from the Chief Constable, that two life-belts are kept in a sluice-house adjoining the dam, provided by the Water Trust officials, and there also is a rope. All the employees of the Water Trust have a key to this sluice-house, as also the constable of the district. Although the constable had been in the neighbourhood of the dam on the two previous days, he was unfortunately not there on the day of the accident, having been detailed for special duty at a funeral at Wemyss Bay. As a heavy thaw had set in, he thought no one could possibly venture on the ice, and therefore did not apply for a constable to take his place. It would, as the hon. Member can understand, be impossible for the police to watch all the many reservoirs and dams within their jurisdiction and be responsible for warning persons against their own foolhardiness—a duty which is not imposed on them by any Statute. But the chief constable proposes to communicate with the engineer of the Water Trust of Greenock, to the effect that if he will at any time notify to the county police that in his opinion there is danger of accidents to venturesome people at the reservoirs within their jurisdiction, a police constable will be detailed to warn them of their danger.

PREVENTION OF STEAM TRAWLING OFF SCOTLAND.

MR. POWER (Waterford, E.): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate if he can state how many gunboats have been placed each year for the last five years at the disposal of the Scotch Fishery authorities by the Admiralty, with the view of preventing steam trawling on the Scotch coast in the prescribed waters.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: I am informed by the Fishery Board that during the last five years H.M.S. "Jackal" or a substitute has been at their disposal for fishery superintendence under the Herring Fisheries (Scotland) Acts. The Board have also received occasional assistance from an Admiralty cruiser for the investigation of certain specific complaints of illegal trawling. It must be borne in mind, however, that the help given by the Admiralty is rendered in connection with the duties imposed upon them by the Sea Fisheries Act, 1883, and that these duties do not wholly refer to waters in which trawling is prohibited.

MR. POWER: Did not the right hon. Gentleman last year state distinctly that two or three gunboats had been placed permanently at the disposal of the Fisheries Board?[†]

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: I remember giving an exact account of what had been done, and if the hon. Member refers to *Hansard* he will see what I said, no doubt.

MR. POWER: In view of the fact that so much damage is done in Ireland, where so little of the gigantic expenditure on the Navy takes place, will the right hon. Gentleman take steps to impress on the Admiralty the desirability of sending a gunboat for the protection of the Irish fisheries?

[No answer was given.]

MR. TENNANT (Berwickshire): Have not the Admiralty now a gunboat on loan to the Scottish Fishery Board?

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: I must ask for notice.

POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS IN NORTHUMBERLAND.

MR. FENWICK (Northumberland, Wansbeck): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he has received any communication from the inhabitants of New York and Murton, in the township of Murton, Northumberland, praying for further postal facilities; if so, can he state now whether he is able to make any improvement in this respect.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.): A communication was received on the 20th ultimo from the chairman of a meeting of the inhabitants of the township. The necessary inquiries are not yet completed, but as soon as a decision has been arrived at it will be communicated to the hon. Member.

TELEGRAPH OFFICES IN RURAL PARISHES.

MR. BRYCE: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether, under the provisions of the Post Office Acts, and particularly of the Post Office Guarantee Act, 1898, any parish is entitled to require the establishment within its limits of a telegraph office, if the parish council considers that it would be for the benefit of the parish to have such an office, and is prepared to furnish the guarantee required by those Acts.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The Post Office Guarantee Acts do not confer on a parish council the right to require the establishment of a telegraph office in the parish. They merely empower the council to pay to the Postmaster General any loss he may sustain by reason of the establishment of such office. It is left to the Postmaster General to decide whether the office shall be established, and I need hardly say that he is always ready to give careful consideration to any case that may be brought before him.

SOUTH ARMAGH MAGISTRACY.

MR. JOHN CAMPBELL (Armagh, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state the number of Roman Catholics, and the number of non-Roman Catholics, in the population of the Parliamentary Division of South Armagh, and their respective representation on the Bench.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover): There is no official information on the religious distribution of the population, or magistracy, by Parliamentary divisions, but, according to the census returns of 1891 there were at that date in the County Armagh 65,906 Roman Catholics and 77,028 Protestants of various denominations. The number of justices of the peace in the county, exclusive of resident magistrates and chairmen of councils, is 168, of whom twenty-three are Roman Catholics and 145 are Protestants.

MR. JOHN CAMPBELL: Will the right hon. Gentleman take steps to get rid of that disproportion?

MR. WYNDHAM: I have answered that question more than once.

[†] Refer to *The Parliamentary Debates* [Fourth Series], Vol. lxxxv., page 871.

SMALL DWELLINGS (ACQUISITION) ACT—PURCHASES AND LOANS.

MR. FIELD: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state how many houses in Ireland have been acquired by workmen under the provisions of the Small Dwellings (Acquisition) Act.

MR. WYNDHAM: The Local Government Board are unable to say how many purchases have been completed in Ireland under the provisions of this Act. As already stated by me, the Board has sanctioned one loan to enable the Dublin Corporation to make advances for the purchase of five dwellings.

IRISH LAND—REDEMPTION OF CROWN AND QUIT RENTS.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE (Wexford, N.): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer if he can state how much money has been paid out of Irish estates in respect of the redemption of Crown and quit rents since the passing of the Land Purchase (Ireland) Acts.

SIR M. HICKS BEACH: Since the passing of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1881, up to 31st March, 1900, the money paid out of Irish estates in respect of the redemption of Crown and quit rents was £156,441.

LORD CLANRICARDE'S ESTATES.

MR. DUFFY (Galway, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether Lord Clanricarde's agent refused recently two years rent, offered by the widow M'Doangh, in order to be allowed to enter into possession of her house and farm, in the parish of Woodford, county Galway; whether he is aware that the same house and farm was handed over since to a man named Lyons without any fine or compensation, who was unable to hold his own farm, the interest of which he sold about six months ago; and whether he will state the number and the cost of the extra police drafted into the district for the purpose of protecting Lyons.

MR. WYNDHAM: I have no official information as to the accuracy of the statements in the first and second paragraphs, though I am informed that it is true that the holding in question has been taken by a man named Lyons. No extra police have been drafted into the district for the purpose of protecting Lyons, and no extra cost has, therefore, been incurred in his protection.

MR. DUFFY: Will the right hon. gentleman say how many police are actually needed for the protection of this man?

MR. WYNDHAM: No extra police have been drafted into the district for the purpose, but I cannot say how many of the ordinary force there are engaged on the duty.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR: Cannot the right hon. gentleman obtain the information asked for in the first paragraph?

MR. WYNDHAM: I cannot ask what terms have been offered.

DAIRY INSTRUCTION IN MUNSTER.

MR. FLYNN (Cork County, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been directed to the proceedings at the last meeting of the Munster Dairy and Agricultural Institute at Cork on the 26th ultimo; and, in view of the fact that the governors of that institute communicated with the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction some months ago asking for a definite decision as to the establishment of an agricultural school in connection with that institute and the continuation of the system of itinerant dairy instructresses for the province of Munster, whether he can state what is the cause of the delay in sending a definite reply to the governors of the institute; and, seeing that the Cork County Council voted a grant of £1,000 a year in February 1900 in aid of the establishment of an agricultural school, can he say what steps the Department is going to take in this matter, and how soon?

MR. WYNDHAM: The hon. Member has been good enough to send me a newspaper report of the meeting referred to in the question. I am advised that the governors of the Munster Institute have been fully informed of the views of the Department of Agriculture, which were to the effect that the Department would recommend no change in the position of the Munster Institute until all the county councils of the province had had time to consider the question adequately, pending which consideration the work of the institute would continue as heretofore. It is true the county council of Cork passed a vote of £1,000 for the purposes of the Munster Dairy School, but the schemes of the Cork County Council under the Agriculture and Technical Instruction Act are as yet in a very immature state, and the other county councils of Munster are equally interested in the question involved. It would be most undesirable for the Department, by precipitate action, to take any steps which might adversely influence the character of agricultural education in the country generally.

MR. CREAN (Cork County, S.E.): Cannot the right hon. gentleman, out of last year's grant, now lying idle, do something to help this matter forward ?

MR. WYNDHAM : I would do nothing against the advice of the Department of Agriculture for Ireland.

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL'S APPEALS.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE : I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he will grant the two Returns entitled Wexford County *v.* Local Government Board and Local Government (Ireland) Officials standing on to-day's Paper.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN : At the same time may I ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been directed to the comments of the Judges of the Court of Appeal in Ireland on the letter of the 30th April, 1900, addressed by the Irish Local Government Board to the County Council of Wexford ; and whether he will lay upon the Table of the House the letter referred to and the affidavits of Sir Henry Robinson, Vice-President of the Local Government Board, in reply to the case made by the Wexford Council against the sealed orders of the Board which have been quashed by the Court of Appeal.

MR. WYNDHAM : In respect of the first of these Returns there is no objection to giving the report of the judgment of the Court of Appeal, with the affidavits attached. I do not quite gather what is meant by the pleadings. It would be impossible to give, officially, reports of speeches made by counsel. There is no objection to giving the information asked for in the second Return, excepting only the protests of local bodies. There are, in all probability, protests upon minutes which have not been communicated to the Local Government Board in the form of resolutions. I should be unwilling, by publishing those received, to expose the Board to the charge of having withheld any protests. On the other hand the task of obtaining access to, and of searching all the records of all the bodies concerned over so long a period, would involve a greater labour than I feel could fairly be thrown on a heavily worked Department. The form of this Return is now under consideration in connection with a somewhat similar notice recently moved for by the hon. Member for North Donegal, and I will communicate with the hon. Baronet on the subject in the course of a couple of days.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): The right hon. Gentleman speaks of the great labour which would be thrown on the Department in searching the records for protests. Could he not issue a three line circular to each council, asking if any such protest has been made, and thus get the information ?

MR. WYNDHAM : I have no objection to taking any reasonable steps, but there

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† The following are the Returns referred to in the question :—Wexford County *v.* Local Government Board.—Return giving the Report of the Judgment delivered in the Irish Court of Appeal on Monday, 25th February last, together with the Pleadings and Affidavits on both sides, in the case of the County Wexford County Council against the Local Government Board for Ireland.

Local Government (Ireland) Officials.—Return giving the cases in which the Salaries of County Council, District Council, Urban Council, and Union Officials have been increased or attempted to be increased by the Local Government Board for Ireland since the passing of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, together with the amount of the former Salary and of the increased Salary in each case, and the total addition to Irish Local Taxation consequent upon these increases ; and giving also Copies of the protests of the local bodies concerned against these increases or attempted increases.

might be some difficulty in following this plan. We might be charged with omitting some.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: That would not be your fault.

MR. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.): Have the Local Government Board any objection to giving county councils a copy of the judgment?

MR. WYNDHAM: No; perhaps the best plan would be to print it as a Parliamentary Paper.

GOREY LICENSING CASE.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if his attention has been called to the case of the Crown *v.* Boyan, in which the Gorey bench of magistrates refused to convict the proprietress of the Railway Hotel, Gorey, of a breach of the licensing law for allowing money to be played for on her billiard table; whether this case has been returned from the King's Bench to the justices of Gorey for rehearing with a view to a conviction, and with what result; and if he will instruct the police in Ireland to prevent the playing for money on billiard tables in hotels in Ireland in future.

MR. WYNDHAM: The answer to the first paragraph of the question is in the affirmative. The case has been returned to the justices, who have convicted the proprietress of the hotel, fining her one penny and costs, with a direction in conformity with the suggestion of the Queen's Bench Division that the conviction should not be endorsed on the licence. The police are aware of their duty in such matters. No special directions are necessary.

CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL—DIRECT LABOUR.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the proceedings against three Clare county councillors, Messrs. Halpin, Lynch, and M'Inerney, in reference to a matter arising out of the direct labour question, and whether, as the Irish Government has drafted a Provisional Order dealing with that question, he will take steps to have the defendants released from the order to enter into sureties to be of good behaviour.

MR. WYNDHAM: The answer to the first paragraph is in the affirmative and to the second in the negative. The Provisional Order can have no bearing on the prosecution to which the hon. Member refers.

SURETIES OF THE PEACE—HALPIN v. RICE.

MR. M'FADDEN (Donegal, E.): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney General for Ireland if his attention has been drawn to the decision of the judge of the King's Bench in Ireland in the case of Halpin *v.* Rice, and to the observation of the Lord Chief Justice as to the difference in the law affecting persons in England and Ireland on application before the magistrates for sureties to keep the peace and be of good behaviour, and if, in view of the opinion of the judge that persons in Ireland called upon to give sureties to be of good behaviour have a grievance in being precluded from giving evidence on their behalf, he will introduce a Bill assimilating the law on the subject in both countries.

MR. FLYNN: At the same time may I ask Mr. Attorney General for Ireland, in reference to the judgment in the King's Bench on the 26th ult. in the case of Deputy-Inspector H. Rice, Royal Irish Constabulary, *v.* Halpin, and in connection with his promise to bring in legislation with a view to carry into effect the recommendation of the learned judges, whether he will undertake to introduce a Bill before Easter.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N.): In answer to the question of the hon. Member for East Donegal, I must refer the hon. Member to my reply to a similar question put to me on Friday last, when I stated that if the Members for Ireland would be good enough to give me an assurance that they would facilitate the assimilation of the law in the two countries in this respect I would forthwith introduce a short Bill for the purpose. The hon. Member for North Cork asks me if I will introduce the Bill before

Easter. I can only repeat that, provided I receive the assurance I have asked for, the Bill will at once be introduced.

Mr. FLYNN: How can we give the assurance until we see the Bill?

Mr. ATKINSON: I have said that the Bill will assimilate the law in the two countries.

FAIR RENT APPLICATIONS IN COUNTY KILDARE.

Mr. CAREW (Meath, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state how many fair rent applications are pending in the union of Naas, county Kildare; when will they be listed for hearing; what was the date of the last sittings of the sub-commissioners there; and when the next sittings may be expected to take place.

Mr. WYNDHAM: The hearing of a list containing eighteen fair-rent applications from the Naas Union will be commenced at Naas on the 19th inst. The list includes all applications received from the union save two. A sub-commission last sat at Naas in January, 1900.

THE RECENT "DAY OF GENERAL MOURNING"—POLICE AND IRISH SHOPKEEPERS.

Mr. JAMES O'CONNOR: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Government intend to compensate the traders of Roundwood and Lara for the loss they sustained in their business in consequence of the police order to keep their shops closed on Saturday, 2nd February; if not, what remedy have the traders for the injury done to their business by the illegal action of the police.

Mr. WYNDHAM: The reply to this question is in the negative. I am unable to advise the hon. Member upon the point raised at the conclusion of the question.

Mr. JAMES O'CONNOR: Then am I to understand that the people who have suffered by the illegal action of the police have no remedy?

Mr. WYNDHAM: The hon. Member must understand that I cannot advise whether they have a remedy or what it is

Mr. JAMES O'CONNOR: If they institute legal proceedings against the inspector will the right hon. Gentleman take care that——

*Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order! The right hon. Gentleman has already said he cannot advise a remedy.

BIRR AND PORTUMNA RAILWAY.

Mr. REDDY (King's County, Birr): On behalf of my hon. friend the Member for East Galway I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether, as the International Railway Corporation, Limited, London, have agreed to comply with conditions laid down by the Irish Office in reference to the restoration and reopening of the Birr and Portumna line of railway, he will state what is the cause of any further delay.

Mr. WYNDHAM: The proposals of the International Railway Corporation were brought by the Irish Government before the Treasury, who did not see their way to hold out any expectation that they will consent to a grant of £12,000 in aid of the reconstruction of the line.

IRISH NATIONAL TEACHERS' SALARIES.

Mr. THOMAS O'DONNELL (Kerry, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state when the Code of Instruction for Irish National Schools, an extract from which was presented to this House last July, will be ready, and what is the special scale of salaries for each grade which this extract states is arranged.

Mr. WYNDHAM: The Commissioners of National Education cannot, at present, fix a date for the issue of the Code, as they are still in correspondence with the Treasury. It will, however, be issued without avoidable delay, and will include the special scale of salaries.

LAND LAW ADMINISTRATION IN EAST TYRONE.

Mr. DOOGAN (Tyrone, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state whether the Agent of the Commissioners of Education has taken, or is instructed to take, proceedings to evict a tenant named Joseph Magennis, who resides in Derrytrisk, near Coalisland, county Tyrone, for a technical breach of one of the provisions of the Land Act, which took place in ignorance of the law two years ago; and what steps, if any, it is proposed to take in this matter.

MR. WYNDHAM: In this case I am informed that the tenant committed a breach of one of the statutory conditions of his tenancy by opening a house for the sale of intoxicating liquors without the consent of the Commissioners. The Commissioners, in consequence, have directed proceedings to be taken for the determination of the tenancy. They are willing to waive proceedings if the tenant surrenders his licence as required by them.

IRISH PRE-UNION STATUTES.

MR. CHANNING (Northamptonshire, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether effect will be given to the suggestion of the Deputy Keeper of Public Records in Ireland in the last Report, and the publication of the original statutes of the Irish Parliament in Norman French be carried out.

MR. WYNDHAM: I am informed that the Treasury are in communication with the Statute Law Revision Committee on this subject. In the meantime the actual work of editing and preparing the statutes for press is being proceeded with.

WESTMEATH MAGISTRACY.

MR. SULLIVAN (Westmeath, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state how many Roman Catholics and how many Protestants there are in the county of Westmeath; how many Roman Catholic magistrates and how many Protestant magistrates there are in that county; and how many Roman Catholics and how many Protestant grand jurors have been summoned by the present High Sheriff of that county to serve as grand jurors at the spring assizes.

MR. WYNDHAM: The number of Roman Catholics and Protestants of various denominations in the county of Westmeath at the time of the Census of 1891 was 59,904 and 5,123, respectively. The number of justices of the peace in the county, exclusive of resident magistrates and chairmen of councils, is 146, of whom ninety-six are Protestants, forty-eight Roman Catholics, and there are two whose religions are unknown. There are no official statistics of the religious denominations of gentlemen summoned by the High Sheriff to act as grand jurors.

SHROPSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY—OUTRAGES IN TIPPERARY.

MR. CULLINAN (Tipperary, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been directed to the series of outrages in the shape of house wrecking, robberies, and burglaries recently committed in Tipperary by soldiers of the Shropshire Light Infantry stationed there; whether any action was taken by the officer in command to prevent such conduct; and whether the persons suffering loss will be compensated by the Army Department.

MR. WYNDHAM: Two burglaries and a malicious injury to property were committed last month by soldiers belonging to this battalion in Tipperary. In each case the accused was arrested and committed for trial at assizes. Neither the officer in command nor the police anticipated such conduct, and no special steps were taken, therefore, to prevent it. The inquiry in the last paragraph should be addressed to my right hon. friend the Secretary of State for War.

MR. CULLINAN: Can the right hon. Gentleman say why the commanding officer took no steps to stop this series of outrages?

MR. WYNDHAM: One can hardly call two burglaries a series.

MR. CULLINAN: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the regiment has been transferred to Templemore, and that on arrival there the men smashed windows?

*Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order! That does not arise out of the question.

Mr. FLAVIN: Are these men acting under the proclamation of Lord Roberts?

PROTECTION OF IRISH FISHERIES.

Mr. POWER: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state how many gunboats have been placed by the Admiralty at the disposal of the Inspectors of Irish Fisheries each year for the last five years, with the view of preventing steam trawling in the prescribed waters off the Irish coasts.

Mr. WYNDHAM: The number of occasions on which gunboats have been employed for the purpose stated during the past five years was—in 1896, twice; in 1897, twice; in 1898, once; and in 1899, three times. Last year no gunboat was employed. I would refer the hon. Member to my reply on the 21st February† to the question of the hon. Member for Galway as to the special steps now being taken by the Department of Agriculture with a view to the suppression of illegal trawling within the prescribed limits off the Irish coast.

PROSECUTION OF THE *TUAM NEWS* EDITOR.

Mr. DUFFY: I beg to ask Mr. Attorney General for Ireland whether he is aware that Mr. John M'Philpin, editor and proprietor of the *Tuam News*, Tuam, county Galway, has been summoned by the Crown to give evidence in respect to resolutions and newspaper reports published in his paper, and alleged to have been furnished to him by persons awaiting their trial at Athenry on 14th March next; and whether, in view of the announcement made recently in respect to similar summonses issued in the city of Waterford, he will direct the immediate withdrawal of the summons against this newspaper editor.

Mr. WYNDHAM: The cases of Mr. Redmond and Mr. M'Philpin are not identical, as the latter has only been summoned to produce reports sent to him for publication. While I cannot admit that he has any special privilege exempting him from the liability to produce these documents, I will undertake that, unless it should be absolutely necessary in the interest of justice to examine him, he will not be produced as a witness.

HORSE-BREEDING IN QUEEN'S COUNTY.

Mr. DELANY (Queen's County, Ossory): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state how many premiumed stallions (thoroughbred and agricultural) have been allotted to Queen's County under the Royal Dublin Society's scheme; and whether any grant of public money goes in aid of this scheme; and, if so, what amount.

Mr. WYNDHAM: As already stated by me, one-half of the annual grant of £5,000, paid to the Royal Dublin Society under the Probate Duties Act of 1888, is applied in aid of the Society's scheme for thoroughbred stallions. Of the twenty-five premiums paid under this portion of the scheme, one thoroughbred stallion has been allocated to Queen's County. The three premiums of £50 for agricultural stallions are not paid out of public funds, but out of the private funds of the Society.

LABOURERS' DWELLINGS IN MOUNTMELLICK.

Mr. DELANY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he has received a resolution passed by the Town Commissioners of Mountmellick in favour of further legislation enabling corporate bodies to provide suitable house accommodation for the labouring classes at reasonable rents, and suggesting that a yearly grant, similar to that made under the Land Purchase Acts of 1891-6 in aid of the erection of labourers' cottages in Ireland, should be made to towns commissioners and urban councils in order to lighten the burthen of the rates and facilitate the removal of hovels; and whether the Government propose dealing with this question during the present session of Parliament.

Mr. WYNDHAM: I have seen the resolution referred to in the question. It is not proposed to introduce legislation on the subject during the present session.

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† See preceding volume of *Debates*, page 698.

FERMANAGH RENT APPEALS.

MR. JORDAN (Fermanagh, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state the number of appeals from the Sub-Commission now pending for rehearing by the Chief Commission in the county of Fermanagh; and whether he is aware that some of these appeals have been lodged over four years, and will he state how many cases were reheard by the Chief Commission at their last sitting at Enniskillen, and when the Chief Commission will next sit in Fermanagh.

MR. WYNDHAM: There are 314 cases in county Fermanagh in which appeals are pending for upwards of two years, but there is no case unlisted in which the notice of appeal was lodged prior to June, 1898. One hundred and fifty-one cases were listed for the last sitting of the Commissioners at Enniskillen; of these, only sixty-four cases went to an actual hearing in court, the remainder being either withdrawn or settled by the parties. The date of the next sitting of the Land Commission at Enniskillen for the hearing of appeals has not yet been arranged.

WICKLOW MAGISTRACY.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in view of the fact that the Roman Catholics of county Wicklow are three-fourths of the population, and that the Roman Catholic magistrates are twenty-eight and the Protestant magistrates 135 in the county, he will take steps, either by suggestion to the Lord Lieutenant of the county Wicklow, or otherwise, to reduce the preponderance of Protestant over Roman Catholic magistrates.

MR. WYNDHAM: I am afraid I can only repeat what I have already stated, that recommendations for appointments to the Commission of the Peace are made by the Lieutenant of the county to the Lord Chancellor, and that it is not within the province of the Executive to intervene in the matter, as suggested.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR: Is it as necessary to pack the magisterial bench as to pack the jury box?

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order!

FAIR RENT APPLICATIONS.

MR. CULLINAN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been directed to the practice of the Land Commission of postponing indefinitely the hearing of fair rent applications in cases where negotiations for sale are pending, and whether he will take steps to secure a more speedy hearing of such cases in future.

MR. WYNDHAM: The Commissioners inform me that the hearing of fair rent applications is only postponed in cases of the kind mentioned upon the application, and with the consent of both landlord and tenant, and that either party can apply at any time to have the fair rent applications proceeded with.

BELTURBET POST OFFICE.

MR. M'GOVERN (Cavan, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether his attention has been called to the unsuitability of the present post office in Belturbet, both in its position and structural arrangements; and is it the intention of the Department to provide a proper building or build a new post office in Belturbet.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The present post office at Belturbet, to which the business was moved after the late fire, is a temporary one, and inquiries are being made as to the best means of obtaining better accommodation. A scheme for buying a site and building specially is under consideration.

COUNTY TYRONE POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS.

MR. DOOGAN: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, if he is aware that the residents of the district in county Tyrone, known as Stewartstown to Aughinderg, which comprises eleven townlands, have petitioned the authorities for a daily delivery of letters, and can he state whether the prayer of that petition will be granted.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: Yes, Sir, the residents applied for a more frequent delivery of letters. Some little time ago the frequency of the service was increased from three to four days a week, and the Postmaster General has now sanctioned a delivery every weekday. The improved service will be commenced as soon as possible.

IRISH RATING VALUATIONS.

MR. FIELD: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he can explain why in England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales the local authorities are the rating authorities, but the Irish Valuation Commissioner and officials are Government employees; and whether measures will be taken to have the law assimilated for the three kingdoms by amending the Local Government (Ireland) Act.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The difference of practice is the result of a difference in the law in the two cases. I am not prepared to propose any change in the Irish Act in this respect.

MR. FIELD: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether, seeing that when the Irish Valuation Commissioner issues his valuation it becomes law subject to appeal, he can state whether the new valuation of the county boroughs of Dublin, Belfast, Cork, Limerick, and Waterford will increase local and Imperial taxation; and whether, in view of the Financial Relations Report, care will be taken that the valuation shall be lowered, in order that the Imperial taxation of those county boroughs may be reduced, as the local rates can be met by increased poundage.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I cannot say what will be the result of new valuations if such are applied for in the towns named. But there is no power under the Valuation Acts to lower the valuation as suggested.

MR. FLYNN: Does the valuation occur if the local authorities object?

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: No valuation can take place unless the local authorities ask for it.

MR. FIELD: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, in view of the fact that rating is based on rental, and that rentals include the annual value of the land upon which premises are built, whether it has been considered, or will be considered, by the Commissioner of Valuations in Ireland that the payment of taxation by the land-owning class has been transferred to the occupiers, as that which was formerly assessed as land is now assessed under the description of buildings being included in the rent of houses.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I am not quite certain that I understand the hon. Member's question; but I can assure him that, generally speaking, land in county boroughs is valued on its letting value, like other rateable property, and that wherever the amount of land attached to a building is more than a mere curtilage, a separate valuation of it will be made.

IRISH LIGHTS—MAIDEN ROCK, KENMARE BAY.

MR. JOYCE (Limerick): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he will state who is responsible for the system of buoying in force on the Irish seaboard, and whether he will inquire as to the buoy at present marking a rock known as the Maiden Rock in Kenmare Bay, which is only an ordinary buoy, with a view to having it replaced by a bell buoy, so that vessels navigating those waters at night may have a means of knowing the situation of this rock.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: Except where there are local lighthouse authorities, the superintendence and management of all lighthouses, buoys, and beacons throughout Ireland and the adjacent seas and islands are vested in the Commissioners of Irish Lights. The Commissioners inform me that no application has been received by them for a bell buoy at Maiden Rock, Kenmare, in place of the first class buoy by which the rock is at present marked.

MR. JOYCE: Is it necessary that an application should be made?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I think it very desirable.

KINSALE WATER SUPPLY.

MR. CREAN: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that a distinct understanding was arrived at between the Kinsale Urban District Council and the War Office, with the approval of the Local Government Board, by which it was arranged that the War Office would advance the money required for providing a supplemental water supply in excess of the sum reached by the borrowing powers of the council and contract to take a water supply for the use of the military, recouping themselves for their outlay by an annual sinking fund covering principle and interest, to be taken credit for by them out of the amount to be annually paid for the water supply. Will he explain on what grounds, after the council had been put to an expense of about £200, the military authorities informed them that they had changed their mind and could not see their way to carry out the arrangement; and, if, under these circumstances, the matter will be re-considered with the object of enabling the district council to carry out the proposed work.

Lord STANLEY: No, Sir. No such understanding was arrived at with the council. The council made a proposal to supply water to the barracks at Kinsale which would have involved an estimated advance of £5,000 from War Department Funds. It was not considered desirable to agree to it, and no arrangement whatever was made with the council.

DEFENCE OF GIBRALTAR.

Mr. O'KELLY (Roscommon, N.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether His Majesty's Government will open negotiations with the Spanish Government for the cession of Tarifa and the territory adjoining the western shore of Gibraltar Bay before expending any more public money on the harbour works at Gibraltar.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: His Majesty's Government have no intention of opening negotiations of the kind proposed.

ANGLO-PORTUGUESE TREATY—M. DELCASSE'S SPEECH.

Mr. O'KELLY: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether his attention has been called to a speech in the French Senate by M. Delcassé, and whether in the event of hostilities there is any Anglo-Portuguese treaty which would compel the British Government to intervene in a dispute between the French and Portuguese Governments.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: His Majesty's Government have received the textual report of the speech by M. Delcassé to which reference is made. They do not think its effect is properly described in the question.

Mr. BOLAND (Kerry, S.): Will the Government lay on the Table of the House copies of any communications that have passed between the Government and Portugal?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: They are on the Table.

THE ROYAL DECLARATION AGAINST ROMAN CATHOLICISM.

Mr. JOYCE: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if he has received information from various public bodies, by resolution and otherwise, expressing their disapproval at the words which His Majesty the King had to make use of at the opening of Parliament with regard to the Roman Catholic religion; and if he will give the matter his consideration.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: Yes, Sir, I have received information of the kind to which the hon. Gentleman refers. I have nothing to add to the statement I have already made in answer to a similar question on the Paper.

Mr. JOYCE: I should like the right hon. Gentleman to answer the last paragraph of the question.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I think it clear from the answer that I have given it consideration.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND: May I ask the right hon. Gentleman whether he has seen the resolution which was passed by the Canadian Parliament on the subject?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: No, Sir, I have not.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND: May I ask the right hon. Gentleman if he is interested in the subject?

*Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order!

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

MR. DILLON: May I ask, with reference to the order of business today, whether it is proposed to take the Estimates in the order in which hey appear on the Paper, or to go on with the Civil Service Estimates from the point at which we left off on Friday?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: No, Sir; I propose to take the Estimates in the order in which they are on the Paper.

SIR J. FERGUSSON (Manchester, N.E.): What will be the course of business to-morrow?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: As I have already stated, the business to-morrow will be the Vote on Account, and, in accordance with the practice which was introduced a year or two back, I have made such inquiries as I can from authorised sources and I find the discussion which is most desired is that on the Education Vote, which will accordingly be placed first.

SIR J. FERGUSSON: In case the Speaker is not got out of the Chair on Friday, will the debate be continued on the Monday following?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I must not be understood to pledge myself a week in advance, as unforeseen necessities for taking other business may arise. But I hope the discussion on the Army Estimates will be continued on Monday.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: Is it the intention of the Secretary of State for War to make his statement first on Friday?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Yes, I hope so. I think it will be the most convenient course. On Thursday the first business will be the motion of the Chancellor of the Exchequer for the Committee on the Civil List, and after that is disposed of we shall go on with the Supplementary Estimates.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: Is it not a departure from the practice of the House for the Minister for War to make his statement on the question that Mr. Speaker leave the Chair?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: No; I think that has been the practice for some years. The hon. Gentleman is perfectly right in saying it was not the old practice. It is a new one, and I think it has been found to be most convenient.

NEW MEMBER SWORN.

Sir Francis Henry Evans, K.C.M.G., for the Borough of Maidstone.

PROCEDURE OF THE HOUSE—AMENDMENT OF STANDING ORDERS.

Standing Order No. 51 read.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I rise to move the motion which has now been for some days on the Notice Paper of the House. The effect of the amendment of our Standing Order would be to place the House in relation to Committees of Ways and Means precisely in the position in which it ordinarily stands with regard to Committee of Supply. As the House is aware, it was formerly possible for private Members to move resolutions whenever one of the Orders of the day was to the effect that "Mr. Speaker do now leave the chair for the purpose of going into Supply." That practice has led to certain evils which it is not necessary for me to deal with now, and it was found to be intolerable. But up to last year no similar inconvenience has been felt with regard to the power of moving Amendments on going into Committee of Ways and Means. That power has always been open to private Members, but it has seldom been taken advantage of; and, before last year, I think I am not wrong in saying that there were only five cases in the last twenty years in which any hon. Member thought it necessary to take advantage of this privilege. With the exception of the occasions when the Consolidated Fund Bill or the Appropriation Bill were before the House, I do not think that for the past twenty years hon. Members have ever thought it necessary to interpose by putting down a motion upon going into Committee of Ways and Means. But it is evident that a practice once started will continue. There are, I think, two motions down already on going into Committee of Ways and Means, and it is perfectly certain that the way having been once shown by some bold pioneer, like my hon. friend behind me, he would find plenty of imitators, and the House would no longer be sure, when the Order for Committee of Ways and Means is put down, that it might not be occupied by some quite different and possibly totally irrelevant discussion upon some other matter. It is very instructive to bear in mind what happened in a parallel case on going into Committee of Supply. It was a superstition very prevalent when I first came into the House, and it has not yet been wholly dissipated, that the power of moving resolutions on going into Committee of Supply is a modern relic of the old privilege possessed by the House of Commons of dealing with grievances before granting Supplies. I understand that very careful investigation was made into this question some years ago, and it was then discovered that the first time a resolution had been moved on going into Committee of Supply was in the year 1811, by a gentleman who seems to be the predecessor of my hon. friend in Parliamentary inventiveness, and who first saw the opening that this Standing Order left to private Members. But although that privilege was started in 1811, it was only used three times in the course of the succeeding ten years. But the practice grew, and it grew apace, until the time came when the House felt that it was impossible to deal with Supply if, whenever the business of Supply was put down, some totally different question was raised and discussed for an indefinite time. I suppose that there are Gentlemen on both sides of the House who regard this as one of a long series of tyrannical interferences with the rights of private Members, and who think the proposed amendment of our Standing Order, like all previous amendments, is really due to the inordinate greed and ambition of successive Governments, who wish to grasp unduly the time at the disposal of Parliament to carry out their own nefarious or, at all events, undesirable schemes. I think that is an extremely shallow view to take of a process which I quite admit has been going on now for a century.

The real truth of the matter is that a great many causes have been at work which make it perfectly impossible for the Government to do any work at all, or to carry on the business of the country, without modifying the rules of the House. It is not the fault of the Government, or the fault of the House, but it is due to circumstances over which the House has really no control, for it is due to the increased perplexity of modern Governmental work, to the press and the telegraph; and due, perhaps, to one other cause as much as any other, and that is the fact that a very much larger number of hon. Gentlemen desire to take part in our debates than was the case one hundred, or eighty, or even sixty years ago. I am not one of those who believe that the level of Parliamentary ability in this House has in the smallest degree fallen; I rather take the other view. But assuming that what I say is true and that Parliamentary ability in this House is very much higher than it was, it is not surprising that the great mass of Members are now, being forced by their constituents, far less content than they were to allow the work of discussion in this House to be carried on by a relatively small number of selected and favoured individuals. While that process has been going on unfortunately the day still consists of only twenty-four hours, and only a certain number of Parliamentary days occur in six months, and sessions which last more than six months are rightly considered as inflicting too great pressure upon hon. Members of this House. Therefore, if you are going to treat your business in a common-sense way, and see that during this six months there shall be a fair amount of time given to those who desire to criticise matters, and a fair amount of time to those who want to discuss the Bills of the Government, and also a fair amount of time to the Government in order to carry out the work of legislation which the country requires, it is absolutely necessary that you should, from time to time, so modify your rules that that fair division of time shall not be interfered with on one side or the other. It may be—and my hon. friend thinks that it is a fact—that under our existing system the time allotted to Members of the Opposition and to private Members of this House for the purpose of Parliamentary criticism is inadequate. I think that forty-three days out of one hundred days, roughly calculated, which are given up to the work of criticism, is more than sufficient. That, however, in my judgment, is a matter for entirely separate discussion from the motion which I have placed before the House, and if the time allotted is insufficient, by all means let us increase it. We might increase the twenty-three days given to Supply to twenty-five days, or make any other change which is thought desirable, but do not let us re-introduce with regard to Committee of Ways and Means a system which has been productive of nothing but confusion and evil in connection with Committee of Supply. If hon. Gentlemen will look back at the debates which took place in this House when the privileges of private Members were gradually being curtailed in the matter of resolutions going into Committee of Supply, they will find that the evil most universally complained of, not merely by the Government, but by independent Members themselves, was that this system of moving resolutions produced the utmost uncertainty as to the period at which important business would come on. If that is true—and it certainly is true—of the resolutions moved on going into Committee of Supply, still more is it true of resolutions on going into Committee of Ways and Means. I may remind the House that almost the most important occasion on which this House goes into Committee of Ways and Means is when the Chancellor of the Exchequer has to explain to the House and to the public his financial scheme for the year—which is an occasion of the profoundest interest both inside and outside of these walls, an occasion always looked forward to by every class of the community interested in it, and it would be of the utmost inconvenience should it be postponed at the will of one single individual, which it might be, because on going into Committee of Ways and Means there is not even that limited safeguard which we now claim for a motion for the adjournment of the House. A motion for the adjournment of the House cannot be moved unless, at all events, forty Members agree to it. But a single Member, acting in concert with nobody else and representing nobody else, has it in his power to put down a subject for discussion on the motion "That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair" on going into Committee of Ways and Means, which may last nearly the whole night, and which may throw the Budget speech of the Chancellor of the Exchequer into the dinner hour, and may cause in other ways the utmost confusion in our business, and inflict the utmost inconvenience both upon the House and the public. In a lesser degree the same objection applies to any other occasion in which the House is asked to go into Committee of Ways and Means. Those other occasions are really confined to the occasion on which the House goes into Committee of Ways and Means for setting up the Consolidated Fund Bill, by which we terminate our financial year, and again when the House goes into Committee of Ways and Means upon the Appropriation Bill, which winds up the financial business of the session. It is competent under our existing rules for an hon. Member to put down what motion he likes upon these occasions. But observe the great inconvenience of even this. At the present time the Consolidated Fund Bill is the last work we do—or almost the last work we do—before the Easter rising, and if you allow private Members to bring in these motions upon the introduction of the Appropriation Bill then you will have to finish off the business of Supply a day earlier than at the present time. It is hard enough at present to get our Supply through so as to enable the Government to comply with the law, but that difficulty will necessarily be increased if you add one more day to the time given up to Supply by allowing hon. Members to put down a motion on going into Committee of Ways and Means when we introduce the Consolidated Fund Bill. A parallel argument applies to the

Appropriation Bill at the end of the session. We fix our holidays to run at the time when the Appropriation Bill passes its Third Reading, and we have to arrange to get through the work of Supply before the Bill is introduced. But unless this Amendment is accepted a notice may be interposed on going into Committee of Ways and Means, which would render our financial machinery, already cumbrous in certain parts, still more cumbrous.

There is another argument to put before the House in support of this motion. It is directed against the peculiar privilege which allows the House to discuss any subject which any hon. Gentleman chooses to bring forward on the motion to go into Committee of Ways and Means. But there are two occasions given, on the Consolidated Bill and the Appropriation Bill, ready to hand, within two or three days of the Ways and Means motion, upon which hon. Members have this opportunity. As everybody is aware, it is open to any hon. Gentleman on the Second and Third Readings of the Consolidated Fund Bill and the Appropriation Bill to raise questions—I will not say on any subject whatever, but any question which is relevant to any Estimate; and to add to these two occasions another occasion within three days appears to me to be adding to the difficulty and confusion of our Parliamentary proceedings, which is wholly uncalled for. I hope the House will see, therefore, that we are not interfering by this rule with the practice of the House, but are only seeking to perpetuate the practice of the House, the practice of going into Committee of Ways and Means without motion interposed, and a practice only interfered with five times during the past twenty sessions. In these circumstances I venture to say that a full case has been made out for assimilating our Standing Order relating to Ways and Means to the Standing Order which has worked with such excellent results in regard to Committee of Supply.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Standing Order No. 51 be amended, in line 4, by leaving out the words 'or of Ways and Means.'"—*(Mr. A. J. Balfour.)*

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Standing Order."

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): It seems to me that the right hon. Gentleman in this motion is carrying rather too far the inroads and encroachments that have been made recently upon the privileges of independent Members. The right hon. Gentleman has himself, by his own action through several years, done a great deal to cure an evil which existed in the experience of many of us, in the irregular manner in which proceedings on going into Committee of Supply were conducted, and in preventing the proper business of the House, which the House was entitled to expect to come on, from being interfered with at the caprice of an individual Member. But I do not agree with the right hon. Gentleman in putting these few opportunities on going into Committee of Ways and Means at all on the same footing as Committee of Supply. After all, as the right hon. Gentleman has stated with perfect accuracy, there are in ordinary sessions only three occasions on which this opportunity occurs—the Consolidated Fund Bill, at the end of the financial year; the introduction of the Budget, and the Appropriation Bill at the end of the session. Well, I think on the face of it there could not be a more legitimate occasion for bringing forward various questions, if it were necessary to bring them forward, than on either of these occasions. The right hon. Gentleman said that the Appropriation Bill and the Consolidated Fund Bill afforded large opportunities for discussing general questions; but I am under the impression that in going into Committee on the Consolidated Fund Bill, the discussions must be confined to matters involved in the Supplementary Estimates, and which are dealt with in the Consolidated Fund Bill; but in any case I do not think that even these opportunities are at all too much to be afforded to Members of the House for bringing forward numerous miscellaneous questions, if they choose to raise them, which they may be prevented from raising when bound by the strict rules governing debate in Supply.

The right hon. Gentleman says, if you wish to facilitate criticism, increase the number of days for Supply; but, after all, these discussions are confined to the particular Votes brought forward in Supply. What is wanted is that there should be these more general opportunities of raising questions which would otherwise not come immediately into the view of the House. I quite admit that this is a rule which, in practice, might be employed in an embarrassing way not only to the Government, but to the House itself. For example, a motion might be made which would have the effect of delaying the introduction of the Budget resolutions, and the prospect of such inconvenience last year led to a special arrangement being made to avoid it. In the case of the Budget resolutions I quite recognise that it may be necessary to guard against such intervention, but that can be done by a special motion made for the occasion. The Government have this weapon at their hand if they wish, and could thus avoid the great inconvenience to public business as well as to themselves; and if they adopted that method it seems to me they would not be driven to make such an inroad upon the rights of private Members. We can carry the curtailment of the rights of private Members too far. I am not one who has ever been a champion of those rights above my neighbours; I rather lean to the other view of the question. At the same time, the private Member is like Nature: you may turn him out with a fork, but he will always come back. If he does not get a legitimate way of airing his eloquence and giving his views to the House, he will find another. If you shut all the doors the result will be a multiplication of motions for the adjournment of the House, which are most inconvenient to everyone, and which are all the more objectionable bebecause they are entirely inconclusive, and which, therefore, we ought not to encourage. Here are these little escape holes, these little vents for the soul of such Members as my hon. friend the Member for King's Lynn. Seeing that the privilege has not been abused hitherto, and seeing that the Government have it in their power, by special resolution on particular occasions when public inconvenience might arise, to protect themselves and the House against an abuse of the privilege, I do not see any necessity for the further restriction proposed by the motion of the right hon. Gentleman.

*MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): My right hon. friend the First Lord of the Treasury has been pleased to talk of me as having introduced something novel in the practice of this House. But it is he that is the innovator, he is the revolutionary; it is he that has carried the flaming torch and not myself. What does his motion really mean? He said that his object was to put the House in the same position in going into Committee of Ways and Means as in going into Committee of Supply; and at the end of his speech he said that his object was to assimilate the practice on these two occasions. But this motion will not do that at all. This motion is to leave out the words "or of Ways and Means." If the House will permit me, let me read the Standing Order—

> "That whenever an Order of the Day is read for the House to resolve itself into Committee (not being a Committee to consider a Message from the Crown, or the Committee of Supply, or of Ways and Means, or the Committee on the East India Revenue Accounts), Mr. Speaker shall leave the Chair without putting any question, and the House shall thereupon resolve itself into such Committee unless Notice of an Instruction thereto has been given, when such Instruction shall be first disposed of."

The House will see the effect of that Order. The Speaker leaves the chair without question put, except in the case of going into Committee of Ways and Means. Committee of Supply is dealt with by another Standing Order, No. 56, and that provides that there also Mr. Speaker shall leave the chair without question put, "unless on first going into Supply on the Army, Navy, or Civil Service Estimates respectively," when an Amendment may be moved relating to the Estimates proposed to be taken in Supply. My right hon. friend does not recognise that his motion would not leave us in the same position as regards Ways and Means as we are in as regards Supply. If he were going to give us something instead of what he proposes to take away; if he were going to give us something in Ways and Means corresponding to what we already have in Supply, then we might consider the case; but his motion gives us nothing in return for the opportunities for discussion which now exist. And then the right hon. Gentleman characterises our objection to that as "revolutionary"! [Mr. Balfour dissented.] Well, the right hon. Gentleman used the word "revolutionary" in reference to a motion which I made on a former occasion—a motion I had a perfect right to make. It is a privilege which the House has exercised for centuries—that, namely, of moving an Amendment to the motion that the Speaker leave the chair and the House go into Committee of Ways and Means. The right hon. Gentleman says that it is a superstition to presume that this right represents the old constitutional doctrine of discussion of grievances before Supply. But what does Sir Erskine May say? In the 1879 edition of his work he says—

> "The ancient constitutional doctrine that the redress of grievances is to be considered before the granting of supplies is now represented by the practice of permitting every description of amendment to be moved on the question that the Speaker leave the chair before going into Committee of Supply or of Ways and Means."

What, therefore, my right hon. friend calls a superstition, Sir Erskine May calls the representative of an ancient constitutional doctrine. I need not remind the House of the restriction which the right hon. Gentleman has placed on the right of moving an Amendment to the motion for going into Committee of Supply; but no restriction has ever yet been asked for by any Minister, unless it be a Conservative Minster, on raising Amendments on the motion to go into Committee of Ways and Means.

I cannot help thinking that his proposal rests upon a misconception of the functions and duties of the Government, and the duties and functions of this House. His Majesty's Government seem to consider that this House cannot be regarded as a creator, a destroyer, or a critic—a creator of themselves, a destroyer of their opponents, and a critic of the Estimates. I think the right hon. Gentleman has too low and mean an opinion of the functions of this House. There are many Members not on the Government Front Bench capable not merely of creating a Government, of destroying the Opposition, or of criticising the Estimates, but of suggesting great improvements in the administration of the country, and of initiating new departures in high politics. I remember Mr. Gladstone bearing the highest testimony to the success of the efforts of private Members in introducing improvements in some of the Departments in this House. It is possible that even the most humble private Member might have some suggestion to make which may not have struck the Olympian imagination of a Minister. It is conceivable that he might even suggest that mistakes had been made which might be recognised by the Government. Why, then, should the Government cut themselves off from all opportunities of profiting from the intelligence of those private Members who come here not merely to criticise, but to suggest? New Members have come here full of such suggestions. There is not one of them but has come with some important motion or some important Bill in his pocket, and with the firm conviction that he would be able to bring it before a full House and have it thoroughly discussed. No doubt every Member has referred to the Standing Orders, which have informed him that out of the five Parliamentary days in the week three days, or six-tenths, of the Parliamentary time belong to private Members, and that only two days, or four-tenths, of the time belongs to the Government. Therefore he comes here filled with a desire to engage in public service, and a conviction that he will be able to do it; but he has scarcely arrived at the House when he discovers that the practice is altogether contrary to the Standing Orders, and that instead of the Government having only four-tenths of the time of Parliament and the private Members six-tenths, the Government take nine-tenths and leave only one-tenth to the private Members. Now, that is discouraging to the private Member; but that is not all. He is still more discouraged when he finds that the little time left to the private Member is disposed of not by any reasonable arrangement according to the importance of the subject—and of course every private Member regards his as the most important subject in the universe—but by blind lot. And, by the way, how the Irish Members manage to secure such a large share of that luck I never could understand. The private Member, therefore, finds himself deprived of all opportunity of bringing before the House those great and important national subjects which have seized his imagination. There are five such opportunities nominally available to independent Members. One is an Amendment to the Address; but an Amendment to the Address means a vote of want of confidence in the Government, and a new Member, at least on this side of the House, has full confidence in the Government—for he is a new Member. Then there is the opportunity of putting questions; but questions lead to nothing. They are not always answered, or if they are answered the replies are not always explicable, and he sometimes finds that he cannot get answers to supplementary questions meant to elicit the meaning of the first answer. Then there is the Amendment on the motion for going into Committee of Supply; but that must relate to the Estimates to be taken in Supply. Moreover, the only thing the new Member can do there to assert his own importance to his constituents is to move the reduction of somebody's salary; but he does not care to do that—he would rather increase the salary, hoping to get it himself some day. Finally, he may move the adjournment of the House; but he does not want the House to adjourn, he wants it to go on sitting until it comes to his subject. These are the five only opportunities on which an independent Member can raise a discussion, and they are altogether inadequate. But there is this sixth—this ancient power of moving an Amendment to the motion that you, Mr. Speaker, do leave the chair, that the House may go into Committee of Ways and Means, a power which it is now sought to abolish.

Now, this Amendment implies no want of confidence in the Government, and it affords an ideal opportunity to a new Member for bringing forward subjects in which he is interested. I beg the Government to ask themselves whether this proposal does not show a certain want of foresight. The Conservative party will not always be on this side of the House. A Conservative Ministry will not always sit on these benches, and when we cross to the other side and find proposals made by our opponents which we consider revolutionary, or perhaps fatal to the country, then, I think, Conservative Members will bitterly regret the reduction of the opportunities for bringing forward such matters before the legislature and the country. I hardly need adduce many authorities in support of the importance of this rule, but there is one which I would ask the permission of the House to quote, if I am not wearying it. A Committee sat on the procedure of the House in 1861. It was composed of most eminent men, its members comprising Mr. Disraeli, Lord Stanley, Sir John Pakington, Mr. Bright, Sir George Cornewall Lewis, and Lord Palmerston. Now that Committee reported as follows—

> "In strict conformity with the ancient usage of the House—"

mark "ancient"—

> "a motion for going into Committee of Supply or of Ways and Means has offered a legitimate opportunity for full discussion on every variety of subject."

Having laid that down, the Committee proceeded to show the spirit in which the rules of the House should be dealt with, and I say that their words are absolutely admirable.

> "On all these occasions—"

when the rules of the House are considered—

> "the House and its Committees have proceeded with the utmost caution. They have treated with respect the written and unwritten laws of Parliament which for ages have secured good legislation, perfect freedom of debate, and a due regard for the rights of minorities. This respect for tradition and this caution in making changes have proceeded on the principle that no change is desirable which experience has not proved to be necessary, and that the maintenance of the old rule is preferable to speculative amendment."

No experience has yet proved the necessity for this change, which abolishes, as I have said, an absolutely ideal opportunity for raising the most important of questions. It has been admitted that the power of moving such Amendments has only been used four or five times—on two of them, I think, by myself—during the last twenty years. That is proof itself that there has been no considerable abuse of the right. If this remnant of power left to private Members was so necessary as the Committee said it was in 1861, how much more is it necessary now, when, time after time, something has been taken away from the opportunities of private Members of bringing matters before the House? The Chancellor of the Exchequer went one better when he said that this power had not been used for forty years until it had been rediscovered by myself. I do not know whether it was rediscovered by me or not, but if it was, I think I ought to have had better treatment from the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Instead of praising me for unearthing this forgotten arm of the Constitution, he denounced me for being the author of an abuse. I must say he showed an ingratitude almost appalling; for on each occasion upon which I have taken advantage of the rule, I have, solely for the convenience of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, cut short my speeches so as to deprive them, if not of all power, at any rate of all finish. If he speaks to-night, I expect from him a handsome acknowledgment of this, and if he does not give it to me, I shall be very much disappointed.

Now, has there ever been any abuse of this rule? If it has only been taken advantage of five times during the last forty years, and I have availed myself of two of these. What were the subjects brought before the House? My first subject was the interception of the public taxes and their diversion from the public Exchequer. That was, I submit, a subject of first-rate, of the very highest importance, involving something like twenty millions a year being withdrawn from the purview of the House. The second occasion was one on which I introduced a very serious subject—no less than the confessed insolvency of the Post Office Savings Bank. I could not have dealt with either of these subjects adequately upon any one of the other opportunities left to private Members. It cannot be denied that they were subjects of very considerable importance and quite worthy of some debate in this House. Moreover, as I pointed out at the time, the Chancellor of the Exchequer had to wait a very short time before bringing in his Budget. There is no shred of ground for accusing me, nor so far as I know for accusing any one else, of an abuse of this right. If, indeed, this motion had been used irregularly—if instead of being used as a legitimate method of bringing on an important debate; if it had been used as an arm of coercion, and caused some Minister to make a doubtful and secret bargain behind the Chair, then it might have been called an abuse, and it might have been open to the animadversion of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. I have not abused the rule; I have only used it for a legitimate purpose; and if I propose to use it again it is with the object of calling attention to most serious treaty engagements for which this country is liable—a subject which cannot be adequately discussed on any other opportunity. I had hoped that Ministers would have had some regard for the traditions, character, and efficacy of this House, even if these do come into competition with their convenience. I beg them to leave to the House some opportunities of showing that it is capable of useful discussion, and I do assure them that it will be safer for them to leave untouched the very few opportunities private Members still possess for earnest discussion of important subjects than to go on shutting down, one by one, the safety valves until there is an explosion. I do implore them to seek rather to limit their own convenience than to silence and suppress private Members. If they would only use a little more care and dexterity in handling the business of the House, Ministers will find that both the House and the Government would gain in every way. The Government are masters of big battalions, and may use them to crush out this last and most important right of the private Member, but if they do that—and I say it with regret—I will not be a party to it. If this motion is pressed, I must inevitably, as having striven to champion the right of private Members, vote against it. I regard the dignity and the efficacy of this House as far beyond the convenience of Ministers or the interests of party, and I believe that on the dignity and efficacy of this House depends to a very large extent the continued freedom and independence of the British people.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.): The right hon. Gentleman the First Lord of the Treasury made a statement at the beginning of the session that within the past forty or fifty years the power and dignity of the Crown had been an increasing and not a diminishing factor in the Constitution. I think the right hon. Gentleman might have stated that the rights and privileges of Members of this House had during that period greatly diminished, and certainly not increased. Independent Members are slowly being shorn of every privilege which they formerly enjoyed. I think everyone will feel some astonishment at the reasons given for the change proposed. I made a note of one or two of the points which were put to us by the right hon. Gentleman. The first statement he made was that this privilege had only been used five times in twenty years. Now, it seems to me that this is not a reason for taking away the privilege, but rather a reason for continuing it. The hon. Member for King's Lynn says that the Chancellor of the Exchequer puts the occasions on which this privilege was exercised as more rare than the First Lord of the Treasury said, but at any rate both of the right hon. Gentlemen agree that it has very seldom been used. The right hon. Gentleman the First Lord of the Treasury did not give us a single instance in which it was abused. Having been used on five occasions in twenty years, and no occasion whatever of abuse having been stated, I ask, Is it not a strong measure to take to ask us to sign away this great privilege?

I want you to look at this from another standpoint. The hon. Member for King's Lynn spoke as if only he had made use of this privilege in modern times. I remember a case in which Mr. Knox, who was until lately a Member of this House, moved a resolution with regard to the treatment of Ireland, and he only got the opportunity of making that most interesting motion by giving notice of an Instruction to the Committee of Ways and Means. Then what took place —because this circumstance is very relevant to our debate—was that the Chancellor of the Exchequer, with his usual courtesy, met the hon. Member and said it would be inconvenient to put off the Budget, but if he would take another day an opportunity would be given him to bring forward his motion. The hon. Member readily agreed, and when he brought forward his motion this House discussed it for a whole day, having had ample notice about it. An hon. Member on the opposite side, who I am sorry to say is not with us now, Mr. Horace Plunkett, supported the motion, with the result that a revolution was brought about in the treatment of Ireland.

I believe the right hon. Gentleman who has brought forward this motion to-day has shown a want of the sense of proportion in his treatment of the subject. We may have one thing done within twenty years in this House that will leave its mark in the history of this country, and if we accomplish one such thing as that by one of the Standing Orders or rules, I think Ministers should have what I will venture to call a reverent feeling for that portion of our procedure which enables the subject to be dealt with. But, as my hon. friend says, the Leader of the House complains that this right is a very inconvenient one. I would like to ask what he means by inconvenient. He only means inconvenient to himself.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I beg the hon. Gentleman's pardon. I said it might inflict the utmost inconvenience both on the House and the public.

MR. LOUGH: I want to put it argumentatively. I think I can make a stronger point against the right hon. Gentleman if I say that he thinks it inconvenient to the Government.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Not at all.

MR. LOUGH: Well, I put it from my standpoint. This right is inconvenient to him. It is a great convenience to me and to every private Member who wants to bring forward important subjects, and every Member ought to guard this right as one of the few he at present possesses. The right hon. Gentleman went on to say that it was peculiarly useless; but it was not useless to Ireland on the occasion to which I referred. That was not a useless occasion of the exercise of privilege. How does he prove that it is useless? Because he says we have the Consolidation and the Appropriation Bills brought before us, and in the discussion of these Bills we can do all that we could do with a special motion. I deny it. When notice is given of the motion, it has to be discussed in an orderly way, and hon. Members come down prepared to give attention to it. That is better than the irrelevant, heartbreaking discussion which we have on the Appropriation Bill. What takes place? You find one Member competing with another to be heard. One Member says to his friend, "You won't be long, as I have something to say," and it is impossible to take more than one division. I believe that if hon. Members would give their attention to the point, they would see that these opportunities do not in the least meet the great opportunity which is given us by this privilege which we have retained so long.

There is one other point. The right hon. Gentleman said that the opportunities for criticism are sufficient. I agree that perhaps the opportunities for criticism are sufficient, and by all we make of our criticism, I think a little less would be quite as useful. A Minister stands up and gives a perfunctory reply or an amiable reply to the criticism. But that is not what we want. We want something done with the subject, and we want to have the opportunity of bringing forward something. I came here to-day to listen with attention to what could be said with regard to the rule, and I have not found a scrap of a word to alter my opinion that this is an infringement of rights which Members on both sides of the House should resist. I am glad that the hon Gentleman opposite quoted the high authority of Sir Thomas Erskine May. This is really depriving us of the ancient right of bringing forward a grievance before Supply is granted. Generally speaking, we know something of the complaint before it is brought forward, and surely the right of putting down a motion before entering the Committee is one we ought to guard most carefully. This is one of a series of infringements of our rights, particularly by the present Government, and for which the right hon. Gentleman is mainly responsible. The one-clause Bill is another method of infringing our rights. We have Bills introduced to which it is almost impossible to move an Amendment. Everyone who has watched the course of affairs in South Africa during the last four or five years, will admit that the Government have used all their influence to prevent criticism in this House. Have things gone well with us since Parliamentary criticism was suppressed by the Government? [AN HON. MEMBER: Yes.] I do not think that things have gone well with us. We have felt the kindly appeals made to us by the right hon. Gentleman and his colleagues not to prolong debate. We have had them going on steadily since the Jameson raid. It has been stated that negotiations are going on, that the Army is engaged in the field, that there was a Committee appointed, that the matter was *sub judice*, and that the matter must not be discussed here. On the most important national affairs for the last five or six years we have hardly had one free, full, and effective discussion.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: On a point of order. May I ask whether the hon. Gentleman is in order in what he is now saying? It has nothing whatever to do with the Standing Order we are discussing.

*MR. SPEAKER stated that the hon. Member was not in order in the line he was now taking.

MR. LOUGH: I will strictly observe the ruling you have laid down. I feel that it is not unreasonable. I only desired to give one or two examples of the way in which our debates have been restricted. It appears to me a most unfortunate time to make a change in the procedure of this House. Let us look at it for a moment from the standpoint of what the duties of the Committee of Ways and Means are. Its duties are to provide the necessary money——

*MR. SPEAKER: I must remind the hon. Member that the duties of the

Committee of Ways and Means are not in the least affected by the motion.

MR. LOUGH: I did not intend to go into detail as to the duties of the Committee of Ways and Means. It seems to me a most inappropriate time to restrict the right of Members who desire to put down Instructions when going into Committee of Ways and Means. I was going to give an illustration to show that, but your ruling makes it inexpedient for me to do so. I am quite sure that Members will see my point. At a time when the national expenditure is so much swollen, and when delicate questions are being dealt with as regards Great Britain and Ireland, it is most inopportune to suggest any restriction of our privileges.

I cannot help thinking that the right hon. Gentleman is depending on his majority to get this restriction approved. I am very glad that some protests have already been made by Members on the other side. I would appeal to them to remember that they may not always be sitting behind the Government as they are to-day. They may some day change places with us, and I would ask whether they do not owe a greater allegiance than that of party in this matter. No doubt the Whips will try to make them support the Government, but I think a small advantage gained for the party in power, at the expense of the privileges of the House of Commons, is one which they will afterwards regret.

MR. ELLIOT (Durham): I have heard the appeal the hon. Gentleman has made, that we on this side of the House should not listen to the voices of the Whips. I can only say that, having some little independence, I believe the interests of the country require us to make this small Amendment on the rule under discussion. There is an extraordinary fallacy underlying the arguments of the hon. Member for West Islington. He seems to think that a gigantic gulf lies between the business of the Government and that of the country. He seems to consider that Members are wanting in true loyalty to the House of Commons because they are anxious to advance the business of the Government. It happens to be the case at the present time—the beginning of a new session of a new Parliament—that the most important business the House of Commons has to do is business which is in the hands of the Government. I support the motion of the right hon. Gentleman not so much on account of the rights of the Government as the rights and privileges of the House of Commons. There is no matter so important as that the House of Commons should reserve to itself full time to discuss the great questions brought before it; but the great questions likely to be brought before it are questions which will be introduced by the Government of the day. I would ask hon. Members, with all sincerity, on the other side of the House, whether the liberties of debate, whether the fulness of debate which we ought to have on all important questions, are not infinitely more in danger, not so much from the Government of the day as from the continual overpressing of the rights of debate by private Members. The real danger to the rights of the House of Commons is to be found in the excessive pressure of individual Members of individual rights, and the forgetting altogether of what is due to the House of Commons itself. I should be out of order if I gave some of the reasons which greatly limit our powers as a House of Commons, and greatly injure the repute in which we are held.

I should like to say one or two words as to the length to which Members have pressed the right of putting questions, whereby an hour of valuable time at the best part of the day is taken away, not, I venture to say, in the interest of the public, and not in the interest of the House of Commons itself. That is one example of the way the House of Commons is injured in its repute. I must say that without any pressure from the Whips I shall go into the lobby without the slightest hesitation in support of the resolution before us. We must remember that the times are serious, and that the business we have to consider is that which it is the duty of the Government to treat as its own, and to defend fearlessly and boldly before the House.

MR. CAINE (Cornwall, Camborne): I listened with the greatest possible attention to the speech of the Leader of the House, but as far as I am concerned he failed to make out the least case for this alteration. One of his chief arguments was that this opportunity which he is now seeking to take away from private Members has been very seldom used. I have no doubt he has brought this motion forward because he fears that this session it will be very often availed of. Why does he fear that? Because almost every opportunity hitherto available for private Members has been swept away. There is the motion to take away our Tuesdays before Easter. Does anybody suppose, if that motion is carried, we shall get those Tuesdays back? No; they will be gone for the session. In consequence of this ruthless seizure of their opportunities, the private Members are thrown back upon the method aimed at by this resolution. I hope the motion will be defeated, and defeated by the help of the independent Members on the other side of the House. There are many, especially the Liberal Unionists, who come here pledged as independent supporters of the Government. I hope that they will not be content with cheering the excellent speech of the hon. Member for King's Lynn, but that they will by their votes let the Government see that this constant encroachment on the time of private Members is resented on both sides of the House.

MR. BARTLEY (Islington, N.): The remarks of my hon. friend the Member for Durham seem to suggest really that we had better wind up all discussion and all questions, and simply come here to register the decrees of the majority of the House for the time being. I must protest against any such view. I have always been a supporter of the rights of unofficial Members. I agree they must use their rights with discretion; but the question we are now discussing seems to be somewhat unfortunate. The Leader of the House stated that this right has been exercised so very rarely during the last twenty years that he now proposes to take it away in perpetuity.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: That observation of mine has been so often misused during this debate that perhaps the House will allow me to repeat what I did say. I said that before last year the opportunity had not been used more than five times in the twenty years, but that last year it was used, and this year it is being used, in my judgment, to the great inconvenience of the House and the country.

MR. BARTLEY: That is very easily explained. The tendency to increase the use of this method is simply because the means by which unofficial Members can act are becoming every year fewer. What have we left now? After the Address is voted, the only way, practically speaking, in which any subject can be brought forward is by moving the adjournment of the House. That is a measure hostile to the Government, and one requiring the support of forty Members. It is a step very few Members care to take, except in a matter of extreme importance, and it is a movement almost entirely limited to the Opposition side. The real secret of the objection to this change is that the semi-official Member is becoming less and less a means of raising those questions for which he is sent to this House. The question of importance is a matter really which the House itself must decide. I can conceive that this session there may be many questions arise which certainly would be very fairly brought up under this rule; but if this opportunity is taken away there will be no possible way for any of us to raise any question, except by moving the adjournment of the House. The whole reason of the present trouble is that Parliament ought to have met a little earlier. It is all very well to say that everything is left and that there is great pressure. The real thing is that the Government met so late, and now desire to make up for it by depriving unofficial Members of the small amount of time left at their disposal. It is rather hard upon us that we should be thus treated. The hon. Member for King's Lynn appears to be the chief offender in this matter in having ventured to take advantage of this rule. I very much regret if the rule has been improperly used, but I have not heard a single suggestion that any frivolous or unimportant matter has been brought forward. It is a pity, especially at the present time, when the rule has not been abused, but has been used, as all agree, only for the purpose of bringing forward very important matters, that the Government, which has such an enormous majority, should use its power to curtail our rights. I am afraid we are becoming a very despotic nation. We are ruled with a rod of iron. We give our allegiance to the Government, and are very glad to support it in every way we can, but it is somewhat hard that when it has unlimited power it should deprive unofficial Members of the one last remnant of the powers we used to enjoy.

MR. GEORGE WHITELEY (Yorkshire, W.R., Pudsey): The Leader of the House contended that this practice was an inconvenience to the House and the country. I venture to ask the right hon. Gentleman how and in what way it is so. Is it an inconvenience to the country to read in its morning papers debates in this House upon matters that are of very great interest to it, and of very much greater interest than many of the propositions placed before the House by the Government? With regard to the House itself, wherein lies the inconvenience to private Members, who, after all is said and done, are the bulk of the House at present? I venture to say that if the right hon. Gentleman would take away the crack of the party whip, or if the division upon the point were by ballot, a very large majority of the party opposite would object to this alteration of the rule, and it would be defeated by a very large plurality. Five motions have been made under this rule during the last twenty years. Can the right hon. Gentleman conscientiously say that a right which has been practised only five times in twenty years has been an inconvenience to the House, the country, the Government, or anybody else? The hon. Member for Durham told us that the great questions of the day were introduced by the Government. I refer the hon. Member to the King's Speech, in order that he may see and judge for himself what are the great questions of the day. Is the question of the alteration of the law with regard to——

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member is straying from the subject under discussion.

MR. GEORGE WHITELEY: I will simply ask, what opportunity has the House for dealing with the great questions of the day? Even in regard to Amendments to the Address, a Member who puts down a motion is frequently precluded from bringing it on, because, in the first place, Bills are introduced dealing with the subject, or, in the second place, the debate is closured at a very early period. So far as the private Member is concerned, he has now hardly any rights whatever. A time will come when the Liberal party will be in a majority in this House, and it will be in the interest of hon. Members opposite to bring forward motions dealing with various matters in order, I will not say to obstruct, but, at any rate, to cry a halt to legislation which they think injurious to the country. Hon. Members will then look back to this afternoon and regret that they made such a fundamental alteration in the regulations of the House. If this were made a temporary or sessional, instead of a permanent alteration, it would be better; at any rate, we should have some experience of its working before it was stereotyped. Could the motion not be moved in such a form as to give it a six months trial before the alteration becomes a fundamental part of the constitutional rules and regulations of the House which cannot be altered?

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): On behalf of the Irish party, I desire to join in the protest against this new inroad on the rights of private Members. The First Lord of the Treasury made absolutely no case for the proposed alteration. He unquestionably left the House under the impression that the effect of the alteration would be to place us in the same position as regards the motion for going into Committee of Ways and Means as we now stand in with regard to the motion for going into Committee of Supply. But, as the hon. Member for King's Lynn pointed out, the proposed alteration places us in a much worse position. The only really substantial ground the right hon. Gentleman attempted to give against the right now enjoyed was, that it gave private Members the opportunity of throwing the Budget speech of the Chancellor of the Exchequer into the background, and that it imported an element of uncertainty as to the night upon which the Budget would be introduced. To anybody who follows the proceedings of the House that objection is utterly absurd, because the motions complained of are made only after notice has been given, generally after notice of long standing. If such a notice appears on the Paper everybody knows that the first business will not be the Chancellor's statement. That, therefore, is a very frivolous ground on which to seek to justify a serious departure from the practice of the House as it has existed for three centuries. The right hon. Gentleman knows perfectly well that these matters are matters of arrangement, and it would always be easy to arrange so that the Chancellor of the Exchequer would not be called until half-past eight or nine o'clock.

I object to this resolution as part and parcel of a system which has been enforced since this Government came into office with far greater stringency and disregard of the rights of the House than at any previous time during my recollection of the House. That system has been gradually and steadily to contract the area of the rights of private Members. It is all very fine for the right hon. Gentleman to spring up and indignantly deny that he had spoken of the convenience of Ministers or of the Government. Everybody knows the object of these successive invasions of the rights of private Members. There is really no other ground on which they are based than the convenience of Ministers and those who have the conduct of the business of the House. We are told that things are in such a condition now, that times are serious, and that the number of days before the end of the financial year is limited. Who is responsible for that? The condition of the country is the work of the Government. The limit of the time at our disposal is the work of the Government, because they, with a fuller knowledge than anybody else could have of the business to be done, fixed the date of the meeting of Parliament. Therefore the only substantial justification put forward is the convenience of Ministers in carrying through Government business. The logical conclusion of that argument is, that private Members should have no rights whatever, that the House of Commons should be simply a voting machine, and that the proposals of the Government should be explained by Ministers and forthwith voted upon.

The right hon. Gentleman referred to the various opportunities still left to private Members to bring forward their views, especially pointing to the Second and Third Readings of the Appropriation Bill and the Consolidated Fund Bill. But he forgot to tell the House that, as I believe, for the first time in its history, he and the Ministry last session, in pursuance of this system, put in front of the Second Reading of the Consolidated Fund Bill three Government measures. That course of action was protested against by members of the party opposite, but their protest was futile. It is perfectly open to the Government, by an extension of the policy of last year, to deprive us altogether of that opportunity also. What security have we that that course will not be pursued, and that the next thing will be to take away the right of discussing the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill, which would require no alteration of the Standing Orders, but an act of discretion on the part of the Government? This is a proposal which I believe is unparalleled in the history of the House, and which threatens private Members with the destruction of their rights and privileges. For these reasons I most strongly protest against this innovation of our rights, which, I take it, is only a symptom and a sign of what we are to expect.

*MR. DISRAELI (Cheshire, Altrincham): I desire to appeal to the Leader of the House to limit the period of this change to the present session. Like my hon. friend the Member for Durham, I consider that the times are serious, and I think that is a very good reason why this rule should be passed. Experience in the past has shown that this privilege has never been much abused, and I hope my right hon. friend will be able to see his way to make it apply only to this session.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): As a private Member I desire to protest against the introduction of this rule, either as a sessional or a permanent order. My experience has been that since the Conservative Government came into power private Members have been deprived almost of all their private rights in this House. Private Members can now only move Amendments to the Address and ask questions, and for the remainder of the session they seem to have no other legislative functions. If this process goes on much longer private Members will have absolutely no rights at all. It will come to this, that Members of Parliament will come here simply to vote Supplies and sit in Ways and Means, and take up such Government Bills as may be proposed by the party in power. I would ask the right hon. Gentleman to seriously consider this question, and to remember that in the past history of this Parliament many of the most important reforms which were passed into law were introduced by private Members, and not as Government measures.

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The question of legislation by private Members does not arise.

MR. FIELD: I bow to your ruling, Mr. Speaker; but my point is that, according to the speech of the right hon. Gentleman who introduced this motion, it is proposed to take away the time of private Members and the right to bring in legislation. It appears to me, if this motion is allowed to pass, that undoubtedly in the future private Members' rights will be much less than they are at the present time, and as an Irish Member, coming here with certain instructions from my constituents, undoubtedly my sphere of usefulness will be considerably shortened by this proposal. Some right hon. Members and hon. Members on the other side, including the hon. Member for King's Lynn, have spoken in a satirical way of private Members; but what do we come here for? Private Members are elected by constituents, and they are generally charged by them with the conveying of certain distinct grievances to this House, and if this process goes on what opportunity will be left for a private Member to bring forward his grievances? We are now being closured and suppressed, and the result is that private Members might as well stay at home as come and sit in this Parliament. Every hon. Member who comes to this House is charged by his constituents to bring forward some measure or other to remove a grievance in his Division, and when he gets here he finds out that there is no means of bringing the matter before the House. He may put down a private Bill, but, according to the system adopted by the present Government, the rights of private Members are being gradually extinguished, and unless they take part in the debate on measures brought forward by the Government they have absolutely no power of making themselves heard in this House of Commons. Many of the questions brought forward by the Government are of immense importance as a rule, but the measures brought forward by private Members——

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! I must remind the hon. Member that the question of measures brought forward by the Government or by private Members has nothing whatever to do with this Amendment.

MR. FIELD: I know that the closure which it is sought to inflict upon us by this motion confines us very much in this discussion, but I thought the point I was raising was relevant. I will simply wind up by saying that as a private Member I protest in the strongest possible way against the extinction of the right of free speech which ought to belong to every Member of this Assembly. We are sent here to exercise the right of free speech with respect to whatever grievance may apply to our constituents, and I enter my protest against this closure motion being accepted either as a sessional or a perpetual order.

MR. ALEXANDER CROSS (Glasgow, Camlachie): I cannot hope to add a single argument to what has already been said upon this question, but I must say that I have some sympathy with the Gentlemen on the front bench upon this occasion. I know that there are some hon. Members of this House, who can hardly be described as private Members, who take every opportunity afforded them of talking, and I think that is mainly the reason why it has become necessary, in the public interest, to curtail some of those opportunities afforded to private Members in this House. What weighs with me on an occasion of this sort in voting away a privilege and a right of ancient standing is the consideration of what may lie before us in times to come. No doubt there are some Members on this side of the House who have a regard for ancient traditions of this kind, and who bear in mind that there may come occasions upon which it may be necessary for private Members on this side to avail themselves of occasions like those to which this rule applies. I venture again to express my expectation that possibly the right hon. Gentleman and the Front Bench may content themselves with making this a sessional order, which would allow us to see how it worked, and which might enable us to find some other arrangement by which a restriction less extreme than this might come into force. I will not venture to add one word about the privileges of private Members, with which I sympathise very much. There are many questions which may be raised by private Members, and which when pressed upon the attention of the Front Bench give us a chance of bringing forward legislation, whereas if this alteration is made permanent we mav be deprived of that chance.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT (Monmouthshire, W.): Having in former times occupied a similar position, I can naturally sympathise with the Gentlemen on the front bench opposite, and especially with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, on the present occasion. I feel almost bound to say a word or two to explain why it is that I intend to vote against the motion which my right hon. friend has brought forward. Governments representing both sides of the House have, in former times, often been hard pressed in this respect, but it has never before been found necessary to ask for this reduction in the time which is left to the unofficial Members of the House. I feel that the objection which has been taken to this practice arises out of the delaying of the Budget last year, and I certainly would, in the interests of all, ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer to take any remedy which is necessary to prevent that occurring again. I am not surprised at the amount of irritation that was caused by the course taken by the hon. Member for King's Lynn in delaying the Budget statement last year, but I do think that when particular incidents of that kind arise they ought not to govern our action in dealing with the general principle of this Amendment. I would remind the right hon. Gentleman the First Lord of the Treasury and the Chancellor of the Exchequer of the old proverb which says—"Those who play bowls must expect to meet with rubbers." The persons who are entrusted by the majority of this House with conducting the business of the country ought not to be treated at all as the antagonists of any class of Members in this House, and if, as in the case of Supply, I saw that things had been abused, or likely to be abused, I should certainly support this motion. But it is admitted that this motion can only affect three occasions in the course of the session, unless we come to some extraordinary demand in the midst of the session, like the war loan or any other unexpected expenditure. If the Government is called upon to make some extraordinary demand upon this House, then it is quite right that the House should have an opportunity of discussing not only that particular Vote, but also the policy which rendered it necessary, and the opportunity which you get upon such an occasion for discussion is totally different to the opportunity which is given in Committee of Supply. Discussions on Votes of Supply are naturally limited in character, and are very properly confined to the limitations which belong to those particular Votes. I think that the most important occasion upon which unofficial Members are offered opportunities by this rule is the power of challenging general policy. In regard to the interposition of unimportant matters which might threaten to delay the introduction of the Budget resolutions, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Government can always protect themselves by a resolution giving precedence to the Budget over any other motions, and that will secure for the Government all that they require. By this means you will obviate that inconvenience, which I am sure everybody wishes to avoid, and you will not part with this general principle, which I think is to the advantage of the House of Commons, for it gives you the opportunity of opening and discussing large questions which you could not otherwise discuss. I confess myself that I was always extremely reluctant to use the closure in reference to financial questions. When we had a very fierce debate upon financial questions, I flatter myself that I never used the closure once. I do not believe that the House will gain any power or advantage by making this alteration. I think the Government have all the security which they need in regard to the two occasions upon which we can raise a general debate upon the policy of the Government—at the end of the financial year, in the month of April, and again at the end of the session, when you can review all that has taken place; and therefore I am not willing to deprive hon. Members of the House of an opportunity which they have enjoyed from time immemorial.

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir M. HICKS BEACH, Bristol, W.): I am very reluctant to detain the House, but as this matter specially affects the Department over which I preside, I hope I may be permitted to say a few words. In the first place, I can assure the right hon. Gentleman opposite and the House that in proposing this amendment of the Standing Order we have not any idea of depriving hon. Members of opportunities of discussing general questions of policy which ought properly to be discussed. My right hon. friend the Leader of the House has during the course of the last three sessions, whenever he has been asked to give an opportunity of this kind, afforded it to the House by giving preference to some Vote connected with the subject on the Notice Paper. Of course, I am speaking of questions in which the country is generally interested. My right hon. friend has constantly, by putting down some Vote of Supply on a particular night, and by making arrangements of that sort, afforded those opportunities, and I am sure the right hon. Gentleman opposite will at once admit that in this respect he has fairly met the desire of the House. But this is not all, for my right hon. friend has altered the rule with regard to the number of days to be devoted to Votes in Supply, so as to give additional facilities during the present session for the discussion of a Vote of an important military character. That, I think, is another instance of the way my right hon. friend has constantly endeavoured to meet the desires of the House. But what we are dealing with now is a matter of a very different character. The hon. Member for King's Lynn has taken me to task for protesting against the manner in which he used his power under the existing rule of moving an Amendment on the order for going into Committee of Ways and Means. I did find fault with the hon. Gentleman, and I do so now, for I do not think it is quite fair to say that no instance of any abuse of that rule has been alleged to the House, for the hon. Member himself has admitted that the rule was abused. What happened? I remember perfectly well that towards the close of last session the House was expecting to hear a statement from me upon the mode of finding additional means for the prosecution of the war, and the hon. Member for King's Lynn intervened with a motion upon a subject which may have been a matter of importance in regard to receipts being intercepted without being paid into the Exchequer. He made a speech on that subject, and although he said it was a matter of importance and a matter of great interest to those who take an interest in financial questions, no other Member of the House took any part in that debate. I made a short reply, and there the matter ended. The hon. Member himself must have felt that his motion was ill-timed, because he has admitted that he did not and could not do justice to his subject under the circumstances, because he felt that the House was not prepared for a long speech. If that was the case, what was the good of the privilege to him if he could not do justice to the subject?

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: Simply because I did not press my right under that rule. Had I done so, I could have driven the Budget into the next day.

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: It has been said that motions of this sort have been made only five times during a long period of years. If this is true how can we by proposing to repeal the existing power seriously curtail the rights of private Members, who have so seldom taken advantage of these opportunities of raising a debate? It is because this power has been discovered and exercised that the Government are anxious to prevent it becoming a gross abuse and a serious interference with the proper conduct of business in this House. This House has felt it necessary, with the general consent of both sides, to curtail the opportunities for moving amendments on the motion that the Speaker do leave the chair on going into Committee of Supply. Is it seriously contended that this power, which has been restricted in relation to Supply, should remain unlimited in connection with the Committee of Ways and Means? My right hon. friend in moving this motion referred to the small number of occasions in the course of the session on which we have to place on the Paper the order for Committee of Ways and Means.

I will endeavour to explain to the House, if I am not detaining it, precisely what happens. I think the occasions when such power may be exercised have been somewhat underrated by my right hon. friend and others. First of all there is the invariable motion after the passing of the Supplementary Estimates. This has always been taken, ever since I can remember, as a matter of course, until this year, when two notices of Amendments to the motion that the Speaker leave the chair have been placed on the Paper. Now it is proposed that our proceedings at the close of the financial year, when every day and every hour is always important, in order that financial business may close within the legal time, should be interfered with by motions of this kind. Then the next occasion is the annual Budget. The right hon. Gentleman who has just sat down entirely agrees with me that to interpose with a motion such as my hon. friend the Member for King's Lynn placed on the Paper, relating perhaps to the foreign affairs of the country generally, upon the Budget night would be an abuse; and it is proposed that this possibility shall be met by a special resolution which, I suppose, will enable the Budget resolutions to be taken before the Amendment can be moved. What would that motion be? I suppose that it would be that the hon. Member who had placed a notice of Amendment on the Paper should not be heard, or that the Speaker should leave the chair without question put on that particular occasion. But, whatever the motion was, there would be nothing to prevent it being debated the whole evening. It is not because I happen to be Chancellor of the Exchequer that I say that nothing more inconvenient to the House, or even to the country, could take place. The whole course of the business of the session might be upset by the postponement in this manner of the Budget resolutions. I remember that on one occasion, when Mr. Gladstone was Chancellor of the Exchequer, some loquacious and industrious Member had put a notice of motion of this kind on the Paper. Mr. Gladstone made an appeal to the hon. Member, and he did not press his motion. [HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!] Yes, but hon. Members are not all so anxious that the business of the House should be conducted. Mr. Gladstone said on that occasion that if the hon. Member had not given way he would have been compelled to make his Budget statement with the Speaker in the chair. What would have been the result of that? After the statement had been made some hon. Member might have got up and moved a motion, which might have been debated all night, with the result that there would have been no time for the Budget resolutions to be taken. No one knew better than the right hon. Gentleman opposite how utterly the whole finance of the country might have been disorganised by such a procedure. I venture to say that by no means except by passing some general resolution such as that proposed, can you possibly prevent a thing of that kind from taking place.

But I go on to a further case. Throughout the consideration of the Budget by the House every year cases might arise in which it would be necessary again to set up the Committee of Ways and Means, so that there might be many occasions during the progress of an important Budget on which these motions might be interposed. Finally, the same thing might happen at the end of the session, when the Appropriation Bill had to be founded on a resolution in Committee of Ways and Means. The hon. Member for King's Lynn referred to the Committee of 1861, but, contrasting the conduct of business in those days with the manner in which we are now forced to conduct it, I am certain that if those gentlemen who passed the resolutions of 1861 had had to deal with the difficulties that any Government has to deal with nowadays they would have been compelled to take steps to secure greater facilities for the conduct of business than they thought necessary then.

Many hon. friends on this side of the House appear to think that by passing this Amendment we would be depriving ourselves of some very important weapon which might be used against hon. Gentlemen opposite should they ever get into power again. Although at one time I attached some importance to views of that kind, I have seen enough now of the proceedings of the House to be perfectly certain that no party, however anxious to stop legislation, can do so by mere obstruction of this kind. This means of bringing forward Amendments, which has been rediscovered by the hon. Member for King's Lynn, has been abused already, and unless the House, in the interest of the proper conduct of business, is prepared in some way to deal with it, it will be abused much more seriously in future.

Mr. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy Burghs): The right hon. Gentleman has made a very interesting speech in support of the motion, but I confess that he has not convinced me that the Government are justified in the course they are taking. There are two things obvious: first, that this is a party motion to be carried by a party majority, and, second, that even the party which supports the right hon. Gentleman is by no means unanimous in favour of his motion, because of the five hon. Members who have spoken, four have condemned it. The result is that the right hon. Gentleman comes forward with a motion for amending the Standing Order, and that he is using his overwhelming majority to make a fundamental alteration in the rules of the House. But that is not all. The very case which the right hon. Gentleman puts forward for his resolution is, in my opinion, the best case against it. The right hon. Gentleman says that the rule has not been abused. It is true that the right hon. Gentleman intimated that there was an occasion when it might have been abused—when an hon. Member put down a motion the evening on which Mr. Gladstone was about to introduce his Budget; but that motion was withdrawn when the hon. Member was appealed to. The only other case was when the hon. Member for King's Lynn had a motion on the Paper, but in deference to the wishes of the House, and on an appeal by the right hon. Gentleman himself, that debate was kept so short that only one hon. Gentleman spoke. I maintain, therefore, that no case has been brought forward by the Government which tends to show that there has been any abuse of the rule. It would be impossible on a Budget night for any hon. Member to bring forward a motion on a frivolous pretext to interfere with the business which the House and country were waiting to hear. It seems to me that a case has not been made out by the Government for a resolution which should only have been brought forward for sound reasons. It is a curious thing that this motion should be brought at a time when private Members have hardly any privileges left, and it is not very difficult for the House to see that there may come a time when we shall not have so courteous a Leader of the House or Chancellor of Exchequer as we have now—it is quite conceivable that a time may come when, by means of this motion, the whole of the privilges of private Members will be taken away. It is because this is one of the last few remaining privileges possessed by private Members—one of the only opportunities we have of bringing motions before the House—that I object to this motion being passed. The motion now before the House simply means that on the Budget night or on Budget resolutions the Speaker will leave the chair without question put, which will preclude any subject arising on Budget night being discussed. Therefore the Opposition would, in my opinion, be neglecting their duty in supporting this motion. It seems to me that the Government have not made out their case in favour of this proposal, and they have shown no urgency whatever; and, as no ground has been shown, I think it is a case where independent Members on both sides of the House should join in making an emphatic protest.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.): I wish to call to the recollection of the Government what took place with regard to the Agricultural Rates Act and the application of its principle to Ireland by this very privilege. It will be within the recollection of Members that in the last Parliament Mr. Vesey Knox, Member for Londonderry at the time, moved that the principle of the Rates Act should be applied to Ireland. That was rejected when the Bill was before the House. Next session his attention was called to this rule, and he put down a motion. The Government, in order to get rid of the difficulty, gave him a night, and, although he was beaten in the division upon the application of the principle of the Agricultural Rates Act, the Government, a fortnight afterwards, came down and applied the principle of the Rates Act to Ireland, and gave Ireland £600,000; so that on that occasion at any rate this privilege resulted in a benefit to Ireland. It is a privilege I am not going to part with if I can help it.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 161; Noes, 255. (Division List No. 32.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork N.E.
Allan, William (Gateshead)
Allen, Chas. P. (Glouc., Stroud
Ambrose, Robert
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert H.
Atherley-Jones, L.
Bartley, George C. T.
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bowles, T. Gibson (King's Lynn
Boyle, James
Brand, Hon. Arthur G.
Brigg, John
Brown, Geo. M. (Edinburgh)
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caine, William Sproston
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carew, James Laurence
Causton, Richard Knight
Channing, Francis Allston
Cogan, Denis J.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter
Crean, Eugene
Crombie, John William
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Cullinan, J.
Daly, James
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Delany, William
Dillon, John
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Dunn, Sir William
Ellis, John Edward
Emmott, Alfred
Evans, Sir F. H. (Maidstone)
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Fenwick, Charles
Field, William
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gilhooly, James
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Richard Burdon
Hammond, John
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir William
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne, Rt. Hn. Charles Seale-
Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Chas. H.
Hobhouse, C.E.H. (Bristol, E.)
Holland, William Henry
Horniman, Frederick John
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jones, David B. (Swansea)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Lambert, George
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Jos. F. (Accrington)
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leng, Sir John
Levy, Maurice
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Govern, T.
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
M'Laren, Charles Benjamin
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mellor, Rt. Hon. John William
Mooney, John J.
Morley, Charles (Breconshire)
Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
Moulton, John Fletcher
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Newnes, Sir George
Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norman, Henry
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipper'ry Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Partington, Oswald
Perks, Robert William
Pickard, Benjamin
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, Robert John
Rea, Russell
Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Renwick, George
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, Charles E.
Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
Shipman, Dr. John G.

Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer,Rt.Hn.C.R(N'thants)
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, A. (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas,F.Freeman-(Hastings
Thomson, F. W. (York, W.R.)
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Tully, Jasper
Wallace, Robert
Walton, John L. (Leeds, S.)
Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.
Wason,Eugene(Clackmannan
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath,North)
Whiteley,George(York,W.R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wilson, HenryJ.(York, W.R.)
Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Mr. Herbert Gladstone and
Mr. M'Arthur.

NOES.

Acland-Hood,Capt.SirAlex.F.
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Aird, Sir John
Allhusen, Augustus Hy.Eden
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot,Capt.JoscelineFitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird,John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour,Rt.Hon.A.J.(Manch'r
Balfour,RtHnGeraldW(Leeds
Balfour,MajKR(Christchurch
Banbury, Frederick George
Banes, Major George Edward
Barry,Sir FrancisT.(Windsor)
Bathurst,Hon.AllenBenjamin
Beach,Rt.Hn.SirM.H.(Bristol
Beach,Rt.Hn.W.W.B.(Hants
Beckett, Ernest William
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Arthur
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Boulnois, Edmund
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles,Capt.H.F.(Middlesex)
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Brown,AlexanderH.(Shropsh.
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Carlile, William Walter
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish,V.C.W(Derbyshire
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil,Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain,Rt.Hon.J(Birm.
Chamberlain,J.Austen(Worc.
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coddington, Sir William
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Chas. Ready
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Cook, Frederick Lucas
Corbett, A.Cameron (Glasgow
Cox, Irwin Edw. Bainbridge
Cranborne, Viscount
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Dewar,T.R(T'rH'ml'ts,S.Geo.
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dimsdale, SirJoseph Cockfield
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred. D.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Dyke, Rt.Hon. Sir Wm. Hart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Elliot, Hn. A. Ralph Douglas
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
Fielden, Edw. Brocklehurst
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robt. Penrose-
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Sir M. (London Univ.
Gibbs,Hn.A.G.H(CityofLond.
Gordon,Hn.J.E.(Elgin&Nairn
Gordon,Maj.Evans-(TrH'mlts
Gore, Hon. F. S. Ormsby-
Gorst, Rt. Hn. Sir John Eldon
Goschen,Hon.George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Green, W. D. (Wednesbury)
Greene,SirEW(B'rySEdm'nds
Greene,W.Raymond-(Cambs.)
Grenfell, William Henry
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hain, Edward
Hall, Edward Marshall
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton,RtHnLordG.(Mid'x
Hamilton,Marqof(L'nd'nderry
Harris, F.Leverton (Tynemth.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Arthur H. (Hanley)
Heath, J. (Staffords, N.W.)
Heaton, John Henniker
Helder, Augustus
Henderson, Alexander
Hoare, E. Brodie (Hampstead)
Hobhouse, H. (Somerset, E.)
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope, J.F.(Sheff'ld,Brightsde.
Horner, Frederick William
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Hoult, Joseph
Howard, J. (Midx.,Tottenhm)
Hozier, Hon. James Hy. Cecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hutton, John (Yorks, N. R.)
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Kenyon, Hn. G. T. (Denbigh)
Kenyon, James (Lancs.,Bury)
Keswick, William
Kimber, Henry
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Knowles, Lees
Lambton, Hon. Frederick W.
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Lawrence, William F.
Lawson, John Grant
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leighton, Stanley
Leveson-Gower, Fred. N. S.
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Rt. Hn. W. (Bristol, S.)
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis(Lowestoft
Lucas,ReginaldJ.(Portsmouth
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Calmont,Col.J. (Antrim, E.
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Maple, Sir John Blundell
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell,W.J.H.(Dumfriessh.
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Milton, Viscount
Milward, Colonel Victor
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Montagu, Hn. J. Scott(Hants.
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
More,Robt. Jasper (Shropshire
Morgan,DavidJ(Walth'mstow
Morrell, George Herbert
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray, Rt. Hon A. G. (Bute)
Murray, Chas. J. (Coventry)
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pemberton, John S. G.

Penn, John
Percy, Earl
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Charles Bine
Rentoul, James Alexander
Ridley, Hn. M. W. (Stalybridge
Ridley, S. Forde (Bethnal Green
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Round, James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Sandys, Lieut.-Col. Thos. Myles
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Seton-Karr, Henry
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spear, John Ward
Spencer, Ernest (W. Bromwich)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stewart, Sir Mark J. M'Taggart
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Stock, James Henry
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Stroyan, John
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt Hn J. G. (Oxf'd Univ.
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tufnell, Col. Edward
Valentia, Viscount
Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E.
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Webb, Colonel William George
Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E (Tauntn
Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
Whiteley, H. (Ashton-under-L.
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wills, Sir Frederick
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE (FINANCIAL BUSINESS).

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I think the House is already familiar with all the reasons for the motion which I now move. They are substantially the same as those we offered to the House last week when a similar motion was before it, although they are now of greater urgency. On the present occasion I would remind the House exactly how our financial business stands so far as the principle is concerned. If my motion is agreed to there are only twelve days for effective Supply before Monday, the 25th inst. On that day we must introduce the Consolidated Fund Bill in order to comply with the law. In two days we obtained ten Supplementary Votes out of twenty-nine, not a very promising beginning. We have to take large Supplementary Estimates, and we have to take, both as regards the Army and the Navy, but perhaps especially as regards the Army, a most important discussion upon the Speaker leaving the chair; and my right hon. friend the Secretary of State for War proposes on Friday next to make his speech on the Army Estimates. I do not see how it is possible to get through this mass of work before the 25th unless the privileges which we ask for are granted. On the present occasion the House will see we ask for no privileges except as regards finance. We do not ask for privileges for legislative work of any kind outside the necessities of the law, and we do not ask for Wednesdays, though, if the House insists upon discussing the Estimates at great length, I may be driven, much against my will, to ask for privileges as regards Wednesdays before the 25th.

I make this request with great reluctance. I have been attacked on both sides of the House by Gentlemen who seem to think I am an enemy of the privileges of unofficial Members. That is entirely untrue. I have always done my very best as Leader of the House to give private Members the fullest opportunity of criticising the Government, and I think my action in that respect will compare favourably with that of my predecessors. I take it it is a fact that at present we lose something materially by not having those opportunities on Tuesdays of general discussion upon subjects outside the business of Supply, or the Budget, or the business of legislation. And it is also perfectly true that when the House retains its privilege in this respect it usually shows its appreciation by a count out; but something might be done, though I make no promise, to secure a certain number of days, at all events, in the session on which abstract resolutions may be brought before the House. In the meantime, having regard to the necessities of the hour, if the House intends to comply with the law, it should take Tuesdays for financial business.

We have been told that this is a state of things for which the Government is responsible in not having called Parliament together earlier. That is a most unjustifiable statement on the part of hon. Members, seeing that the House had an autumn session. [A VOICE: A very short one.] Not a very long autumn session; but if these days which are now asked for had been added it would have made it abnormally long, and I saw no reason, and see no reason, why this House should be asked to meet earlier than it did. If the question had been put to them, and hon. Members had been allowed to vote according to their inclinations, as to whether the House should be called together on the 14th February or a week earlier, I wonder how the division would have gone. I am tolerably certain that the most officious of my critics would have said they were directly opposed to not giving the House a holiday. I am myself indifferent to the criticisms as to whether or not the House ought to have been called together earlier. As regards the present, we are bound to obey the law, and if the exhibition which we have had for the last two days continues we may have to ask not only for Tuesdays but for Wednesdays also. But I take no right to interfere with Tuesdays, except for Supply, and, therefore, if the House decides to dispose of Supply, the Tuesdays will be restored to private Members, and I have no doubt, if the House is offered the plain choice of either discussing and passing the Estimates, or breaking the law, which they will choose. Under these circumstances I hope the resolution I now beg to move will be accepted.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That, until Easter, Financial Business do have precedence on Tuesday whenever set down by the Government, and that the provisions of Standing Order No. 56 be extended to that day."—(*Mr. Balfour.*)

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I am one of those who, as the right hon. Gentleman rightly says and suggests, that the House should have met earlier, and whose suggestion he treated with no little ignominy and scorn, and upon that ground I cannot agree to this proposal. I quite admit that the right hon. Gentleman, having placed himself in the position in which he stands, can make out a strong case for taking Tuesday, Wednesday, and every other day in the week. But this is not the way to conduct important business of this House, above all the business of Supply, where everything that has to be done is to be done with a sort of Damocles' sword hanging over one's head. We are told that we have to pass these Votes, however large they may be, on a certain day, to do which we must curb our inclinations to discuss them in the manner in which we consider they ought to be discussed. This is not the first time the House of Commons has been asked to take a similar course, but I have never known an occasion such as this in which it was so obvious beforehand what the result would be. There is no novelty whatever in it—the only novelty is the unusual size of the Supplementary Estimates; we knew they would be excessive, but we never had the slightest idea that, at a time when we were to be asked to meet great demands for war expenditure, the Civil Service Estimates would exceed by a million the normal Estimates. In my humble judgment it was the Government's business to have foreseen that the present state of affairs would arise, and to have provided for it by calling Parliament together sooner. Being in this dilemma, the Government are reduced to taking these strong measures. But that does not make me regard the strong measures with the less dislike, and as a protest againt them I shall certainly vote against the motion.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS (Denbighshire, W.) felt bound to protest against the course which had been taken by the Government. The Government would, he thought, get through their financial business much more quickly and much more satisfactorily if they showed some disposition to meet the views of hon. Members, and allowed them to have retained Tuesdays for discussing subjects in which they were interested. There was no reason why the Government should not get through their financial business without special procedure, and he was bound to protest against the motion.

MR. DALY (Monaghan, S.) expressed his great surprise at the proposals before the House. He thought it was hardly worth the while of the right hon. Gentleman to make the suggestion that he would only interfere with Tuesdays in order to take financial business, because after that was disposed of hon. Gentlemen would no doubt find the Government Whips at the doors persuading them not to come in to make a House. He hoped private Members would vote against the motion.

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 237 ; Noes, 144. (Division List No. 33.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex F.
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Aird, Sir John
Allhusen, Augustus H. Eden
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John Geo. Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W (Leeds
Balfour, Maj. K. R. (Christch'ch
Banes, Maj. George Edward
Bartley, George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt Hon Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Beach, Rt. Hn. W. W. B. (Hants
Beckett, Ernest William
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Arthur
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boulnois, Edmund
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex)
Bowles, T. Gibson (King's Lynn)
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Brown, Alexander H. (Shropsh.
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Carlile, William Walter
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W (Derbyshire
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc.
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles R.
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Cook, Frederick Lucas
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow
Cox, Irwin Edw. Bainbridge
Cranborne, Viscount
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Dewar, T. R. (T'r H'ml'ts, S. Geo.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dimsdale, Sir Joseph C.
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. H.
Faber, George Denison
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Sir M. (London, Univ.)
Gibbs, Hn A. G. H. (City of Lond.
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin & Nairn
Gordon, Maj Evans-(T'r H'ml'ts
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hn. Geo. Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Green, W. D. (Wednesbury)
Greene, Sir E. W (B'ry S. Edm'ds
Greene, W. Raymond-(Cambs.)
Grenfell, William Henry
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hain, Edward
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Rt Hn. Lord G (Mid'x
Hamilton, Marq. of (L'donderry
Harris, F. Leverton (Tynem'th
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Arthur H. (Hanley)
Heath, James (Staffords., N. W.
Heaton, John Henniker
Helder, Augustus
Henderson, Alexander
Hoare, Edw Brodie (Hampstead
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside
Horner, Frederick William
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Hoult, Joseph
Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham
Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hutton, John (Yorks, N. R.)
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (Denbigh
Kenyon, James (Lancs., Bury)
Keswick, William
Kimber, Henry
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Knowles, Lees
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lawrence, William F.
Lawson, John Grant
Lecky, Rt. Hn. William Edw H.
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Rt. Hn. W. (Bristol, S)
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (Cumb. Eskdale)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsm'th)
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Calmont, Col. J. (Antrim, E.)
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Maple, Sir John Blundell
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfriessh.
Milton, Viscount
Milward, Colonel Victor
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
More, Robert J. (Shropshire)
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow
Morrell, George Herbert
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Nicholson, William Graham
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pemberton, John S. G.
Penn, John
Percy, Earl
Pilkington, Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward

Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
Randles, John S.
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Charles Bine
Rentoul, James Alexander
Ridley, Hn.M.W.(Stalybridge
Ridley,Samuel F.(BethnalGr'n
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. T.
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Round, James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler,Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, Harry S.(Limehouse)
Sandys,Lieut.-Col.Thos.Myles
Seton-Karr, Henry
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith,AbelH.(Hertford, East)
Smith,James Parker(Lanarks.
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stewart,SirMarkJ.M‘Taggart
Stock, James Henry
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Stroyan, John
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot,RtHn.JG.(Oxf'dUniv.
Thornton, Percy M.
Tufnell, Col. Edward
Valentia, Viscount
Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E.
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Wason,John Cathcart(Orkne
Webb, Colonel William Geo.
Whiteley,H.(Ashton-under-L
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wills, Sir Frederick
Wilson,A.Stanley(York,E.R.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson, J.W.(Worcestersh.N.
Wilson-Todd,Wm.H.(Yorks.)
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young,Commander(Berks,E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham,William(Cork,N.E.
Allan, William (Gateshead)
Allen,CharlesP(Glouc.,Stroud
Ambrose, Robert
Asquith,Rt.HnHerbertHenry
Atherley-Jones, L.
Barlow, John Emmott
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Boyle, James
Brown, George M.(Edinburgh)
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caine, William Sproston
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Channing, Francis Allston
Cogan, Denis J.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Crombie, John William
Cullinan, J.
Daly, James
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Delany, William
Dillon, John
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Dunn, Sir William
Ellis, John Edward
Emmott, Alfred
Evans, SirFrancisH.(Maidst'n
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Fenwick, Charles
Field, William
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.
Fuller, J. M. F.
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gilhooly, James
Gladstone, Rt. Hon. Herbt. J.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Richard Burdon
Hammond, John
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne, Rt. Hn. Charles Seale-
Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.
Hemphill, Rt. Hn. Charles H.
Hobhouse, C. E.H.(Bristol,E.)
Hobhouse, Henry (Somerset,E.
Holland, William Henry
Horniman, Frederick John
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jones,DavidBrynmor(Swans'a
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh'e
Jordon, Jeremiah
Kearley, Hudson E.
Lambert, George
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese,SirJosephF.(Accrington
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leng, Sir John
Levy, Maurice
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
M‘Arthur, William(Cornwall)
M‘Dermott, Patrick
M‘Govern. T.
M‘Hugh, Patrick A.
M‘Kenna, Reginald
M‘Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
M‘Laren, Charles Benjamin
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mooney, John J.
Morley, Charles(Brecknocksh
Morton,Edw.J. C. (Devonport
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Newnes, Sir George
Nolan,Col.JohnP. (Galway,N.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien,Kendal(TipperaryMid
O'Connor, Jas. (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly,James(RoscommonN.
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Partington, Oswald
Pickard, Benjamin
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price Robert John
Rea, Russell
Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Redmond, JohnE.(Waterford)
Russell, T. W.
Schwann, Charles E.
Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire)
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer,RtHn.C.R.(North'nts
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, A. (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas,F.Freeman-(Hastings
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Tully, Jasper
Wallace, Robert
Walton, John L. (Leeds, S.)
Warner, Thomas CourtenayT.
Wason,Eugene(Clackmannan
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North
Whiteley,George (York, W.R.
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wilson, Henry J.(York,W.R.
Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Herbert Roberts and Mr. Soames.

SUPPLY.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

NAVY (SUPPLEMENTARY) ESTIMATES, 1900–1901.

1. Motion made, and Question put, "A. That an additional number of men and boys, not exceeding 600, be employed for the Sea and Coastguard Services for the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901."

*THE CIVIL LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. PRETYMAN, Suffolk, Woodbridge), in the absence of the Financial Secretary, desired to say a few words in explanation of the Vote. The 600 men now asked for comprised the colonial contingent in China. New South Wales provided 262; Victoria, 197; and South Australia, 120, with the "Protector," gunboat. It was necessary under the Colonial Naval Defence Act of 1865, Section 9, to obtain the sanction of Parliament in order to bear those men on the Votes. He did not ask the House to believe that these men were necessary in order to give effect to the naval strength of the mother country in China. It was not the actual force, but the moral force which lay behind which was in question. The value in the eyes of the Empire and of the world of that small body of 600 men, side by side with our own sailors, soldiers and marines, was such that he did not think there would be any difference of opinion in the House in regard to the Vote. All the Members of the House were familiar with the services rendered by those men. The Colonial contingent had been most honourably mentioned by the commanding officer on the station. Their services were most valuable and were most highly appreciated, and their gallantry was conspicuous upon all occasions.

MR. KEARLEY (Devonport) was sure that they all agreed with what had been said by the hon. Gentleman as to the good effect that must accrue from the services of those men. They had served side by side with our own seamen, and nobody would doubt at all the value of their services. He asked whether the hon. Gentleman could tell the Committee what the arrangements were in regard to the pay of those men.

*THE CHAIRMAN: The question of pay falls to be considered on the next Vote. It will be better to discuss one Vote at a time.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.) said the hon. Gentleman in charge of the Vote was entirely mistaken if he supposed that it was going to pass with the unanimity of all sections of the Committee. For his part, he had for a considerable period of years resisted on every occasion additions to the Navy, whether they appeared in the shape of a Vote for men and boys, or an increased money grant, because he was convinced—and every year that passed added strength to the conviction—that the policy inaugurated by this country six years ago of enormous increases to the Navy was a policy calculated to destroy the finances of the country, and greatly calculated to plunge the country sooner or later into a terrible war. When a few Members commenced to oppose this policy a few years ago they were denounced, of course, as enemies of the country. They were laughed at as enemies of the Empire for venturing to prophesy that the increase commenced five or six years ago was only a small portion of what was coming. He remembered, five years ago, when the First Lord of the Admiralty, now in another place, brought in one of the vast Navy Estimates and announced that they were undoubtedly of a startling character, but required by the necessity of the time. The House was startled, but it voted the Estimates under the illusion, which had now been dissipated, that by so voting it was placing the country in a position of security and defence, and that if there was not finality in them there was something approaching finality. Every year there had been a large increase in the Vote for men and boys, and the expenses of the Navy. He asked where this was going to stop. He believed it would not stop until the taxation of the country was raised to such a point that the people would rebel and revolt against it. He desired to say that those who had banded themselves into an organisation called the Navy League were primarily responsible for this mad career along which the country was now being driven. What did they find these gentlemen saying after five years of inflation and enormous additions to the size of the Navy? They were now declaring that England was in a worse position at sea, and a worse mistress of the seas than five or six years ago. The more they spent on the Army and Navy the more they would be told that the state of the country was alarming, and they would have to go on increasing the size of the Services. He felt bound at every stage to resist any increase of armaments. He would vote against the proposed increase.

MR. DALY (Monaghan, S.) had great pleasure in joining his voice to what had been said by the hon. Member for East Mayo. The hon. Member for the Woodbridge Division had referred to the fact that 600 Colonial troops had come to help England in a difficulty. Considering that from so large an extent of country only 600 troops could be raised, he thought the hon. Member should not have mentioned that. It seemed to him that the colonies gave them very little sympathy if, when England was in trouble, only 600 men could be got to come to the help of the country. He asked how these troops were to be paid as compared with the troops of this country, because it struck him that if a very great inducement had not been offered to these men from the colonies it was quite possible that they would not have come to the help of England at all. It seemed to him that the amount of money in this Vote was extraordinary.

*THE CHAIRMAN: There is no money in this Vote.

MR. DALY admitted that, but at the same time he expected that the men did not come without money, and one of the points which Members from Ireland had to watch was the money point. He had no sympathy, he was proud to say, with this matter at all, and he thought the colonies had almost as little when the trifling number of 600 was all they could beg, borrow, and, he might say, steal to join the forces. It would be his duty to go into the division lobby against this Vote.

*MR. CORRIE GRANT (Warwickshire, Rugby) said he understood from what was stated by the hon. Member for Woodbridge in introducing the Vote, that it was desirable to give the colonies an opportunity of taking part in the operations in China, and therefore these men were selected to go, and charged on the Estimates. If so, why should the hon. Member for South Monaghan talk of sweeping the gutters to get men? He would go into the lobby in support of the Vote, as he believed a great many Members on that side of the House would, because they desired, along with hon. Members opposite, to do everything they could to strengthen the bonds between the mother country and the colonies.

MR. ALLEN (Gloucestershire, Stroud) entirely concurred with the hon. Member who had just spoken, and he intended to vote for the number of men stated. He did not think that, being a new Member, he should have got up to speak if one of the Members from Ireland had not attacked the Navy League, with which he had been more or less intimately acquainted since the commencement. He thought the Navy League had done a great deal of good in bringing home to the country the necessity of having a strong and large Navy. A great number on that side of the House would agree with him that it had been a distinct advantage to have the Australian and other Colonial forces fighting by our side.

MR. CULLINAN (Tipperary, S.) said his hon. friend had a perfect right to condemn the policy of the Navy League. He concurred with the hon. Member for South Monaghan that it spoke badly for the sympathy of the colonies when they could only find 600 men. The Nationalist Members looked at this question in relation to the taxes they were going to put on their country, and he claimed that they had a perfect right to object to the Vote, on which no information had been supplied.

MR. WILLIAM ALLAN (Gateshead) said he was surprised at the paucity of the number stated in the Vote. He was afraid that 600 was a misprint and that there should have been another 0 added. He failed to see how 600 could supply the deficiency required. It had always been the fault of the Navy administrators of this country to ask for too few men. In this case he felt sure that they were committing the same blunder again, and when the proper Navy Estimates came on they would be asking for more men. He had always advocated that it was the duty of the Government broadly and honestly to put down the number they required, so that the House and the country would know what they required. It was well known that they would require ten times the number now put down.

Mr. JOYCE (Limerick) said he desired to raise his voice against this Supplementary Estimate of a million and a quarter of money for 600 men. ["Order."] If he was out of order in referring to the amount, the Chairman was there to put him in order. [Laughter.] He would not take any laugh from Gentlemen on the other side. If he committed any breach of the rules he would bow to the ruling of the Chairman at once. He desired to say that this Supplementary Estimate for 600 men would cause the expenditure of a large amount of money. It appeared to him to be an anomaly when he looked at the fact that if they required a Catholic chaplain for the British Navy——

*The CHAIRMAN: That cannot be discussed on this Vote.

Mr. JOYCE: I bow to your ruling at once, Mr. Lowther, and I have just to say that when I am a little better acquainted with the business of the House I will interfere oftener and with more effect in the debates. There is one portion of this Supplementary Estimate on which I desire to be a little more enlightened before I allow it to pass. [Laughter.] Perhaps I may know a little more about it than the hon. Members who laugh on the other side of the House. I want some information as to the policy of towing His Majesty's ships——

*The CHAIRMAN: Order, order! The hon. Gentleman is discussing the wrong Vote. We are now discussing Vote A. Will he confine himself to that?

Mr. JOYCE: Am I in order in discussing any portion of the orders given in connection with this Vote?

*The CHAIRMAN: These are not the Navy Estimates. When we reach the Navy Estimates that will, of course, be in order. These are the Supplementary Navy Estimates. This Estimate is for 600 men, and that is the only matter that can be discussed now.

Mr. JOYCE: I desire to ask your ruling on Section C, page 3. Can I speak on that matter at present or not?

*The CHAIRMAN: We are discussing Vote A, and not the other one.

Mr. JOYCE: I bow to your ruling at once.

Mr. McGOVERN (Cavan, West) thought the Committee should be told for what purpose these 600 men were required.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 235; Noes, 67. (Division List No. 34.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Aird, Sir John
Allan, William (Gateshead)
Allen, C. P. (Glouc., Stroud)
Allhusen, Augustus H. Eden
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert H.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Col. James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Hon. G. W. (Leeds)
Balfour, Maj K. R. (Christch'rch
Banes, Major George Edward
Bartley, George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. A. Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol
Beach, Rt. Hn. W. W. B. (Hants.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Blundell, Col. Henry
Boulnois Edmund
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex)
Bowles, T. G. (King's Lynn)
Brookfield, Col. Montagu
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Caine, William Sproston
Caldwell, James
Carlile, William Walter
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord H. (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.
Chamberlain, J. A. (Worcester)
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer

Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Cook, Frederick Lucas
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Cranborne, Viscount
Crombie, John William
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Dewar, T.R. (T'rH'mlets, SGeo
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dimsdale, Sir Joseph Cockfield
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duke, Henry Edward
Dunn, Sir William
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir William Hart
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fenwick, Charles
Fergusson, Rt Hn. Sir J. (Manc'r
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Sir Michael (Lond. Univ
Fuller, J. M. F.
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gibbs, Hn A. G. H. (City of Lond.
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin & Nairn
Gordon, Maj Evans-(T'rH'ml'ts
Gorst, Rt. Hn. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Grant, Corrie
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, Sir E W (B'ry S Edm'ds.
Greene, W. Raymond (Cambs.
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hain, Edward
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G. (Mid'x
Hamilton, Marq of (L'nd'nderry
Harris, F. Leverton (Tynem'th.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanley
Heath, James (Staffords, N. W.)
Helder, Augustus
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Henderson, Alexander
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (Bristol, E.)
Holland, William Henry
Hope, J. F (Sheffield, Brightside
Horniman, Frederick John
Hoult, Joseph
Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham
Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hutton, John (Yorks., N.R.)
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Jones, William (Carnarvons.)
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (Denbigh)
Keswick, William
Kimber, Henry
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Kitson, Sir James
Knowles, Lees
Labouchere, Henry
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lawson, John Grant
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leng, Sir John
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Levy, Maurice
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth
Macdona, John Cumming
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
M'Calmont, Col. J. (Antrim, E.
M'Laren, Charles Benjamin
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Markham, Arthur Basil
Maxwell, W J H (Dumfriesshire
Milton, Viscount
Milward, Colonel Victor
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
More, R. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow)
Morley, Charles (Breconshire)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)
Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Partington, Oswald
Pemberton, John S. G.
Pilkington, Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Rea, Russell
Reid, James (Greenock)
Renshaw, Charles Bine
Rentoul, James Alexander
Renwick, George
Ridley, Hn. M. W. (Stalybridge)
Ridley, S. Forde (Bethnal Green
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Charles T.
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Round, James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, John
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Sandys, Lieut.-Col. Thos Myles
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.
Soares, Ernest J.
Spear, John Ward
Spencer, Rt Hn C R (Northants.)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stewart, Sir M. J. M'Taggart
Stock, James Henry
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Stroyan, John
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Thomas, F. Freeman (Hastings)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Valentia, Viscount
Wallace, Robert
Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E.
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Webb, Colonel William Geo.
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whiteley, H. (Ashton under Lyne
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wills, Sir Frederick
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES.—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.
Ambrose, Robert
Atherley-Jones, L.
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Boyle, James
Brigg, John
Burke, E. Haviland-
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Channing, Francis Alston
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cullinan, J.
Delany, William

Dillon, John
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Field, William
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Gilhooly, James
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Hammond, John
Hayden, John Patrick
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Govern, T.
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Mooney, John J.
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Newnes, Sir George
Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Md
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, Jas. (Roscommon, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Pickard, Benjamin
Power, Patrick Joseph
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Schwann, Charles E.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, A. Glamorgan, E.)
Tully, Jasper
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)
TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Daly and Mr. Joyce.

2. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That an additional sum not exceeding £1,250,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for additional Expenditure on the following Navy Services, viz. :—

	£
Vote 1. Wages, etc., of Officers, etc. - - -	500
Vote 2. Victualling and Clothing for the Navy	84,000
Vote 8. Shipbuilding, Repairs, Maintenance, etc. :—	
Section I. Personnel -	98,500
Section II. Matériel -	630,000
Section III. Contract Work - - - - - -	207,000
Vote 11. Miscellaneous Effective Services - -	230,000
Total - - - -	£1,250,000."

*MR. PRETYMAN: In asking for this Vote it will probably be convenient to the Committee that I should make a short statement on the different heads under which the money is required. With regard to the Vote of 600 men just passed, the actual cost of their services was about £25,000. The contingent are paid by us at the same rate of pay and allowances as our own sailors, and they are calculated to serve for about seven months. Besides that, we are giving to the South Australian Government a sum of £2,500 for the services of the "Protector," because we have not only these 600 men, but also the "Protector," which is the property of the South Australian Government. For repairs to that vessel during the time it was in the Imperial service we are paying £2,500 to its owners. The next head is the increase in the victualling charges. It will be recognised by all that since the time these Estimates were originally prepared there has been an enormous rise in the prices of all kinds of produce, and that rise has caused an increase of no less than £114,000, but against that there is an appropriation-in-aid of £30,000, reducing the actual Vote to £84,000. I might give one or two instances showing how prices have risen. Cloth has risen from 6s. 11d. to 8s. 11d., and serge from 11⅛d. to 1s. 3¼d., and so on, and the prices of provisions have increased in the same way. These increases have in nearly all cases come about and been largely augmented since the time the original Estimates were prepared. There was at the time some indication of a rise in prices, but the Estimates were prepared fifteen months ahead of the time at which they were voted, and it was impossible to say when the rise would take place. The same remark applies to the question of coal in Section 2 of Vote 8. It is a very difficult question to decide whether a rise in price is going to be permanent, and the question also arises as to the latest date on which it is possible to disturb a Vote once prepared. It is very difficult when a complicated Estimate has been prepared on the basis of prices then existing to go into it and revise all the items, and there is the further point that the rise in price may be only temporary. So far as we are concerned, the increase in prices of coal, provisions, and clothing material, has been not temporary but permanent, and that is really the reason of the large increase in the victualling Vote, and, to some extent, the coaling Vote. The next head is shipbuilding and repairs, the amount there being £98,500. That increase is caused partly by more rapid construction and partly by repairs. Construction has been hastened, and I think the Committee will agree that that is not a cause for complaint. To-morrow an event will occur which is almost unique in the history of the British Navy. Four first-class vessels will be launched, and it is largely on account of the expenditure on these four vessels that this excess is asked for. £30,000 is for new construction, most of which has been spent on the "Montague," the "Albemarle," and the "Kent." The amount expended upon these three vessels during this financial year is no less than £629,000, so that an excess of £30,000 on that large sum will not appear very great. At the same time, I think the Committee would prefer that we should have an excess of £30,000 and succeed in turning these vessels out than that the vessels should have been delayed and £30,000 less spent. That is the real ground on which the money is asked for. Included in that £98,000 is a further sum for repairs to a large number of ships. There are two reasons why the repairs have exceeded the Estimate. One is a reason which will naturally occur to every hon. Member—namely, that during the year we have had this unforeseen trouble in China, and nobody knew at what moment the services of the Navy might be required in all directions. It therefore became imperative to execute all repairs immediately, and that every vessel which could be brought at short notice into a fit condition for service should be put into that condition. That naturally involved the working of overtime, and that accounts to a large extent for this increase. The other reason is that it is not advisable in the interests of economy to allow a larger estimate for repairs than the lowest sum which really appears necessary, as whatever is allowed is pretty certain to be spent. It is desirable that the full sum anticipated to be required should be estimated. It is very undesirable that it should be necessary to come here for Supplementary Votes at all. We should very much prefer to be able to state fifteen months beforehand exactly how much we are going to spend and exactly what we are going to do with the money. But if hon. Members will put themselves into the position of those who have to administer this great Department, look at the enormous number of items over which this work has to be spread, and conceive the difficulty of looking fifteen months ahead and estimating exactly how much will be required to be spent on repairs, for instance, which may be owing to accidents or breakdowns which nobody can foresee, it must be evident to them that, however much experience may be brought to bear or time given to the matter, such Estimates must to a large extent be guesswork, based partly upon the experiences of the past as well as upon the possibilities of the future. On that ground the Admiralty has perhaps more excuse than almost any other Department for coming to the Committee with a Supplementary Estimate, which is not very large in relation to the amount of work done, and all of which has been expended in putting our Navy into a state of efficiency such as the House of Commons is always impressing upon us as absolutely necessary.

Mr. Pretyman.

The next item is one for which I need not apologise at all—namely, contract work. We have succeeded in getting more work to the extent of £270,000 out of the contractors than we estimated we could do. That is not increased, but merely anticipated expenditure. We are paying £270,000 more to contractors in this financial year for work they had in hand, and therefore shall have that much less to pay at the end of the contract. Really, the contract is being executed more rapidly than had been anticipated.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): In respect of what ships?

*MR. PRETYMAN: I am afraid I have not that information, but possibly I shall be able to supply it later in the debate.

The last head is for miscellaneous services, the larger part of which is in consequence of the services of the naval contingent and the fleet in connection with the trouble in China. It is perfectly clear that the China trouble was an unforeseen event in regard to which we are perfectly justified in asking for a Supplementary Vote, and therefore no excuse is needed for bringing this Estimate forward. Sub-head A is for the passage money and conveyance of the Australian contingent both by water and by land, and also of the additional officers who were sent to China. Sub-head C, for piloting and towing, is largely and principally due to extra charges incurred by the extra number of vessels going through the Suez Canal on their way to China. "Telegraphic communications" refer to the extra telegraphic services in connection with South Africa and China. The hire of steam vessels for communications in China is in connection with two vessels which were hired to keep up communications between different places. The next head is expenditure in connection with the seizure and detention of vessels in South African waters. In that matter the Navy was merely obeying its orders and doing its duty, and the matter has already been discussed. "The hire of distilling vessels for manœuvres" was an experiment. Two vessels were fitted as distillers, and valuable experience was gained. The vessels were somewhat too large, they had not sufficient pumping power, but at the same time they supplied a considerable quantity of water for the fleet, and the experiment was well worth trying.

MR. FLYNN (Cork, N.): Was there distilling of spirits in these vessels, or was the experiment confined to water?

*MR. PRETYMAN: Although it was off the Irish coast, the experiment was confined to water. The last sub-head is in connection with the steamship "Ophir," which is to convey their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York on their tour to Australia and round the world. The only question of importance, I think, which has been raised in connection with that is with regard to the accommodation to be provided for the press. Questions have been asked upon this matter in the House, and some hon. Members seem to be under the impression that Sir Donald Mackenzie Wallace, who is to go with this vessel, has been, by the sanction of the Admiralty, allowed to go on board as the correspondent of *The Times*, to the exclusion of other newspapers and other press correspondents. That is not so. Sir Donald Mackenzie Wallace has had no communication with the Admiralty whatever in regard to his position on the tour, and he has not been appointed with the knowledge of the Admiralty as the correspondent of any newspaper whatever. But entirely apart from that, the First Lord has felt that it is most desirable, in the interest of the public and of the press, that some representation should be allowed, and that as far as possible some accommodation should be provided for the gentlemen of the press to accompany this expedition, and he has received a very large number of applications. He answered all these applicants, and they were informed that there were very great difficulties in the way of providing accommodation at all, but that everything that could be done would be done. The First Lord felt that it was very desirable that all the applications received should be considered equally, and not only did he wait until the last moment, but those important newspapers that had not applied for accommodation were communicated with and asked if they desired to be represented. That being done, every effort was made to induce the various newspapers and press agencies as far as possible to combine so that one press representative might serve two or three newspapers or agencies. That having been done, the First Lord found that he could provide accommodation for five press correspondents, and those five have been allotted as fairly as possible between the press agencies and the principal newspapers by combination, so that there has been absolute fairness. Those five gentlemen will be accommodated, and five berths have been prepared for them, and they will sail on Thursday.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny): Will the hon. Gentleman kindly name the agencies and the newspapers?

*MR. PRETYMAN: I think it would be better not to, for it would be rather invidious to do that. I believe the press are perfectly satisfied, and every effort has been made to show no favouritism of any sort or kind, and I do not think the hon. Gentleman would wish that any invidious statement should be made. I will endeavour at the close of this debate to answer any further questions put to me, but I thought that I might save the time of the House by intervening at this stage.

MR. WILLIAM ALLAN said he had listened with the greatest degree of pleasure to the remarks of the hon. Gentleman who introduced the Supplementary Estimate of £1,250,000. He had no desire to traverse all the headings of the hon. Gentleman's remarks, but would confine himself to the third.

Attention called to the fact that forty Members were not present. House counted, and, forty Members being found present—

MR. WILLIAM ALLAN (continuing) said that there came under the heading of "Coals for Steam Vessels" the sum of £700,000; but the hon. Gentleman gave the Committee no explanation whatever as to when, how, or where this £700,000 extra was required over and above the original Estimate. It was all very well for the hon. Gentleman to say that the price of coal had risen, but his point was, when was the contract made by the Admiralty for coals? He was fully aware that in October, 1899, no contract was made for coals, although that was the time when every ship-owning firm, such as the Transatlantic General Company, the Royal Mail Steamship Company, etc., were making their contracts. The Admiralty could have bought coals then at 13s. per ton. Two or three months later the Admiralty went into the market and bought a small quantity at 19s. a ton, but made no contract. Then they had to go again into the market and paid 29s. a ton, but they bought more coals at the big price than they had any need for then, and which they would not need for a long time to come. Was that business? Why, the Director of Contracts knew no more about his business or the markets than the man in the moon! The hon. Gentleman smiled. He (Mr. Allan) had for seven or eight years been treated to laughter in the House over naval matters, but he challenged the hon. Gentleman to deny that he could have bought those coals at 13s. a ton for which he had paid 29s. a ton. The hon. Gentleman tried to put off this enormously increased expenditure on the ground of the rise in the price of coal, but he wished the hon. Gentleman would find out something about the coals and where they went to. The hon. Gentleman did not tell the Committee why this excess of coals was required, or that some of his boats were burning twice as much coal as others. That was the reason why the taxpayers' money was being squandered in a haphazard, unbusinesslike manner.

He had listened with attention to every word the hon. Gentleman had said about repairs, but no proper explanation had been given. What boats were repaired, where were they repaired, and what did the repairs of each cost? What did this sum of £98,500 include? The repairs to the "Hermes," the "Europa," or the "Powerful," which was lying in Portsmouth Dockyard with her boilers nearly out of her? Then, he was sorry to say that this huge sum did not include repairs to the new Royal yacht, which indeed was not afloat yet. It was not fair to the House of Commons or to the taxpayers of the country that they should be called upon to vote money for repairs without the responsible Minister stating to the House what was the nature of the repairs. He did not want to use strong terms to any Minister or head of the Department, but the Minister ought really to be able to give a lucid, frank, and complete explanation of the Vote he was submitting to the Committee.

*MR. PRETYMAN said, if the Committee would allow him, he might state that he had given a short statement of the headings of the Vote and a general explanation; but he would be most happy to answer any further questions that were put to him in the course of the debate. He thought that the hon. Member had scarcely been fair in accusing him of want of courtesy or a desire to withhold information from the Committee.

MR. WILLIAM ALLAN said he was very glad to hear that the Committee was going to have a full explanation of why all this money was required for coals and repairs, and he sincerely hoped they would have the names of the boats and the reasons why the repairs were necessary. The Paper did not show how much had been spent on the new Royal yacht. Did that come under repairs? The House and the country wanted to know that. He wished to refer also to one item under the head of "Miscellaneous Effective Services." Under Sub-head XX. very unbusinesslike phraseology was used—namely, "Hire, etc., of s.s. 'Ophir.'" Now that word "hire" had no right to be there at all. There was not a shipowner in the House who did not know that the word should have been "charter." He asked how much the charter of the "Ophir" was to be per month—what did the owners get? There was £43,000 down for the "Ophir," and what he wanted to know was not only the amount of the charter per month, but what was spent in refitting all the cabins, saloons, and berths, and on the accommodation for the crew, and also on the equipment of the vessel. To come here with a brief, condensed statement, like that put into the hands of hon. Members, was not taking the House into the confidence of the Government in the whole of this transaction. This was a matter of ship-owning and ship-management, and the Government ought to have been able to convey their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall on this tour on the new Royal yacht, instead of being compelled to charter another ship. It was their duty to tell the Committee every penny of expenditure on that chartered ship, instead of coming there with the word "hire," as if it were a cab-horse or pianos and bands of music. He for one protested earnestly against the Minister responsible coming to the Committee with such flimsy pretexts, and he would at all times raise his voice against squandering the public money in such large sums without the slightest explanation.

MR. FLYNN said that no one could have listened to the hon. Member for Gateshead without being forcibly impressed with his striking arguments. They all recognised the improvement in the manner of the hon. Gentleman responsible for the Vote compared with that of some of his predecessors; but they would await with interest the further explanations which had been promised. As to the matter of principle, before going into details he took it that this increased expenditure the Committee were asked for was was bound up with the reckless expenditure on which the country had launched in regard both to the Army and Navy. We were formerly supposed to be in a position to meet a combination of any two foreign naval Powers, but now we were going to meet any combination of any three Powers; hence the increased Estimates year after year. They had been told in the language of metaphor that a large portion of this expenditure was in the nature of insurance money for the protection of the commerce and trade of the Empire; but if that were so, Irish Members had a right to protest, seeing that they had no commerce to protect, against being compelled to pay their proportion of the insurance mney. What guarantee had the Board of Admiralty in constructing these big battleships at such a rapid rate that they would not be obsolete and useless five or ten years hence—just as our artillery had been found of no account against modern "Long Toms" and "Pom-Poms" in South Africa. These ships might, in fact, in a few years be broken up and sold for old scrap iron. That was a danger which naval constructors should lay to their mind, considering the marvellous skill now being applied to modern artillery and projectiles, and to submarine boats and torpedo boats. His motto, indeed, would be *festina lente* when they remembered that a naval engagement, which only lasted a few hours, between an Austrian and an Italian man-o'-war in the Adriatic had revolutionised the system of naval construction of the whole world. The hon. Member for Gateshead, who had compelled the Government to reconsider the whole question of the adoption of Belleville boilers, had given very alarming figures as to the purchases of coal, which showed the imprudent, the improvident, and slatternly manner in which the Admiralty conducted their business, and some further explanations were demanded from the hon. Gentleman in charge of the Estimate in regard to this matter. If such things had occurred fifteen or twenty years previously, when the Government was confronted with a vigilant and active Opposition, no Board of Admiralty would have held their position for six months. With regard to the royal yacht, this vessel was not fit to carry the person of the King, and yet £400,000 had been spent upon it. The Estimates were brought before the House without any details, but these were questions the Admiralty were bound to answer, they were matters upon which the country would require information. In the good old times, in circumstances such as these, the First Lord or the Civil Lord of the Admiralty would have been impeached, and dismissed as being incapable of doing public service. The right of free search for contraband of war was a right which should only be exercised with the greatest possible prudence and discrimination, and only when there was overwhelming proof that vessels under neutral flags were carrying contraband of war; otherwise every country with a powerful navy like that of England would become nothing less than a highway robber. All they would have to do would be to point their guns, claim the right of search, take all the food-stuffs they discovered, and then go before a court and get the ship condemned, and the taxpayer would have to pay. If such a power was attempted to be exercised by Germany, France, or the United States, the whole press of the country would howl with indignation against such high-handed tyranny. Yet the country had to pay £30,000 for this little diversion of the Admiralty. Another point upon which some information would be required was the item of £2,500 under Sub-head A.A., for the use of the South Australian gunboat during service in Chinese waters. Was that for the purpose of protecting the Colonial Volunteers, of which the House had heard so much, because they were so loyal? The Government would not give Ireland a gunboat for the protection of her fishermen, but for this boat, which belonged to the colony, and which we used for the transport of the colonists, the country was asked to pay this amount. The loyalty of the colony was not so great, after all, and he could quite conceive that the Government might have greater loyalty in Ireland under similar conditions. With regard to the item under Sub-head XX., Hire, etc., of ss. "Ophir," in connection with the visit of their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York to Australia, etc., "hire" was not a very elegant word. It was not the proper way to treat Royalty, and it gave a very bad impression in the country to talk of such a vessel in the same way as one would of a row-boat on the Thames. Another question upon which the hon. Gentleman might be able at some future time to give some information was with regard to the policy of construction which at present was being so strongly advocated. Was it a wise and prudent policy to build these ships, as to the strength of which they knew nothing, when other nations were turning their attention to submarine vessels? He thought not.

COMMANDER YOUNG (Berkshire, Wokingham) said he was unable to follow the last speaker in his suggestion that the policy of the Admiralty in constructing battleships was not wise, having regard to the fact that other nations were keeping pace with us. There was no doubt that France was building submarine vessels, and it was possible that those boats might revolutionise the Navy; but it was not with the submarine boat alone that we should have to compete. We had to compete with the range of guns, and the speed of ships on the billows. No doubt the Admiralty would keep their eye on these submarine boats, and, if they built any, all he would ask would be that he might not be ordered to serve on one. As an upholder of the Government, he did not desire to detain the Committee. He desired to see the Votes go through. When the Naval Estimates came forward would be the proper time to discuss these matters. But as a naval officer he would like to have a satisfactory answer to one question, which was, whether the hon. gentleman could give any information as to when the Report of the

Committee now sitting on the question of rations and victualling of seamen was likely to be laid on the Table of the House. Every day was of importance in this matter. A great deal of money was spent, especially by the young and growing bluejackets, on provisions, which clearly showed that they required a great deal more food than was supplied by the Admiralty. He hoped the Report would be laid on the Table shortly, and that the result would be satisfactory. With regard to the item of pilotage under Sub-head C, he hoped the hon. Gentleman would be able to inform the House that there was no falling off in the pilotage qualities of the naval officer. Pilotage was a responsible duty, requiring care and nerve, which would have to be performed by the naval officer in time of war, and the Admiralty should give as much encouragement as possible to naval officers to perfect themselves in this duty.

MR. KEARLEY said he did not think the Government ought to take a Vote of this character unless they were prepared to give the Committee the fullest opportunity of discussing it in every way and were prepared to answer every question which was put. Whatever might be said about the difficulty in contracting for coal, was the Committee to understand that the Admiralty had not sufficient foresight to make forward contracts for clothing and provisions for their sailors? It appeared to him that if these departments were properly managed the Admiralty ought not to have to come to the Committee and say that owing to the rise in the price of provisions and cloth they had had to pay £14,000 more of the taxpayers' money. If any private business was conducted in that way it would spell bankruptcy in a very short time. The fact of the matter was that neither the Navy nor the Army was run on a commercial basis. The gentlemen who managed these Departments were no doubt excellent men, but they had no commercial knowledge, and no one who had commercial knowledge to assist them. If they had had commercial training they would have saved their salaries over and over again. Everybody was aware from the debate in the previous year that the food was inadequate, the meal-times out of joint, and the canteen arrangements unsatisfactory. A Committee had been sitting on this question for some time, and possibly the Committee might be told now whether any decision had been arrived at, and if so, what. No doubt the most important of the items on the Estimate was that dealing with construction, but there was an idea abroad that although the Admiralty made a great display of shipbuilding it was only on paper. What the country wanted to know when they provided the money was that there would be in due course ships in commission and not upon paper. One serious cause of delay arose no doubt out of the contract work. There were four ships built in Government yards which would instance this. The "Ocean," the first ship laid down, was launched seventeen months after it was laid down, and it was not commissioned until some three years after. The "Implacable" was launched thirteen months after being laid down, and almost three years had elapsed since that time, and yet she was not commissioned. She had had some difficulties, and she had not yet passed her steam trials; that was the fault not of the Government, but of the contractor, but the Committee ought to be informed what steps had been taken or were contemplated by the Government for the purpose of dealing with the contractors who were responsible. The "Bulwark" was launched seven months after being laid down, the quickest launch on record, and she was not yet in commission; whilst in the case of the "Montague," which was launched sixteen months after being laid down, it was impossible to say when she would be commissioned. He drew attention to the different times at which the ships were launched to show that there was no plan in the building of these ships. It had been stated over and over again by experts that it was quite possible to commission a ship within twenty months of her being laid down, but in any case two years should be ample time. That time should also be ample to obtain the machinery, but one mistake the Government made was not to give out their contracts for machinery until months after the ship was laid down. Our difficulty was that the Admiralty rarely laid down more than two ships of a type, so that the contractors had no opportunity of duplicating the machinery. He thought he had heard the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Forest of Dean urge the advantage of having half-a-dozen ships projected at a time. Whether he suggested it or not, the hon. Member thought it was a practical suggestion. The public were anxious to have these ships delivered in a reasonable time. Some ships which were being built by contract had been in course of construction three or four years, but as they were voted upon every year the public outside fancied that we were adding to our battleships every year. He was glad to see, therefore, from these Supplementary Estimates that there was some evidence that the Admiralty were alive to their responsibilities. He hoped the Admiralty would tell them something that night as to their intention of expediting both in the Government yards and the contractors' yards the completion of the various ships already voted.

SIR FORTESCUE FLANNERY (Yorkshire, Shipley) said he could not agree with the hon. Member for Devonport in his somewhat ungenerous attack upon the hon. Gentleman who introduced the Estimates.

MR. KEARLEY interrupted the hon. Member, and was understood to deny that he had made an attack.

SIR FORTESCUE FLANNERY said it appeared to him to be a somewhat ungenerous attack. He ventured to say that the statement which the hon. Gentleman made to the Committee would commend itself generally to them. It would not be in order to discuss the whole sphere of naval policy on these Estimates, but he thought he might remark that the greater part of the million and a quarter which was asked for had been spent on coal. The note of explanation suggested that the expenditure was for the purpose of replenishing the stock of coal at certain places, and, if rumour were correct, that replenishment had not taken place a moment too soon. They had heard rumours of one of the ships of the Mediterranean Squadron towing another ship in consequence of the deficient quantity of coal and the difficulties of replenishment. He did not know if these rumours were correct, but if they were, the state of affairs showed a want of foresight on the part of the Admiralty as regards the provision of coal. They were now apparently performing the duty of replenishing the stocks wherever necessary. The Vote for coal expenditure appeared to be £607,000, and if the Admiralty would make the stocks sufficient throughout the Mediterranean and elsewhere, they would make one of the best possible preparations for naval operations. The 600 men referred to in the Votes were only nominally added to the Navy. They were only nominally transferred from the Colonial Navy to the Imperial Navy, and he was glad that reference had been made that night to the patriotic services of the Australians, because the country had been going into patriotic fervour over the services which the colonials had rendered on land. Notwithstanding the somewhat unkind remarks which had fallen from the hon. Member opposite with regard to the subsidy, he ventured to say that the country at large would welcome the services which the colonies had given and were still giving to the naval as well as the military forces of the country. The most salient point was the fact that the Committee were asked to vote £207,000 more for contract expenditure. If there was one duty which the Admiralty had been neglecting more than another in the past, it was the duty of pushing on with naval construction. They had had explanations from the late First Lord of the Admiralty, whose loss to that House and the Admiralty they all deplored, of the causes of the arrears in naval construction. Year after year the House voted money, and year after year it had been spent without any reasonable excuse whatever. Now they found the Admiralty waking up to a sense of their duty, for they had actually expended more than had been voted. He said, as one who took the deepest interest in these matters, let them go on with Supplementary Estimates for expenditure on new construction beyond that which had been voted by the House. They had not made sufficient naval preparations. The country understood that upon the Navy alone the security of the country from invasion depended. Without anticipating what might be in the Naval Estimates shortly to be introduced, he ventured to say that the House and the country were amply prepared for a considerable increase in the naval expenditure. [A NATIONALIST MEMBER: No, no.] He referred to those who had the good of the country at heart, and not those who desired to see His Majesty's ships at the bottom of the sea. He well remembered the right hon. Baronet the Member for Forest of Dean made a speech in the House eleven or twelve years ago in which he called attention to the fact, which was then imperfectly recognised, that we were a hated nation. On that occasion the noble Lord the Member for Ealing moved that the naval preparations were insufficient. His right hon. friend suggested that the standard should be set up that the Navy of Great Britain should be equal to the navies of any two Powers that could be brought against it. If that was considered a sufficient standard then, was it a sufficient standard now? He asked those who had knowledge of the naval preparations in Europe, and a knowledge of the hatred with which we were regarded by many European nations, whether that was so or not? [Nationalist cheers.] Hon. Members opposite cheered because they recognised that his statement was true. If it was true, was it not wise that they should make preparation for any attacks that might possibly result from that feeling? Since that time what had happened? In Germany enormous naval preparations had been made, and millions of money had been voted. Germany, which was not then a naval Power at all, had since become and still intended to become a naval Power of the first rank. The United States of America had established already, and were extending, a navy. Japan at that time had only the beginning of a navy. To-day she had one of the most powerful in the world. He asked whether in these circumstances it was not of the utmost importance that the standard of comparison as regards the Navy should be raised. He ventured to say that naval opinion and the opinion of all those who had thought on this subject had led them to the conclusion that the standard ought to be in comparison with any three Powers that might be brought against it. [AN HON. MEMBER: Six Powers!] No, he was content with three. All he wanted was fair preparation. He hoped this discussion would at least have the effect of encouraging the Admiralty in the belief that the people of the country and the House in particular were prepared to endorse every reasonable proposal the Admiralty might bring forward for the naval defence, and therefore the safety, of the country.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE said he did not imagine they would be in order in following the last speaker in the discussion of the naval standard proper for this country. That was a matter which, of course, must be discussed on the first Vote of the Navy Estimates. On the present occasion they had to confine themselves to the Supplementary Estimate now before the Committee. The last speaker, and also his hon. friend the Member for Devonport, both dealt in much the same way with the retardation of the naval programme, and although his hon. friend opposite criticised the words with which the hon. Member for Devonport opened his speech, he nevertheless used even stronger language with regard to the total inadequacy of the statements which were made last year to explain the retardation of the programme. His hon. friend the Member for Devonport had given credit to the Government for showing some signs in this Supplementary Estimate of a desire to overcome the retardation which had recently taken place. They had no facts before them to show how the money was to be expended. The hon. and gallant Member the Civil Lord, in making his statement that night—and he made it with conspicuous ability—told them what the expenditure in the dockyards was, but the contracts item, except for coal, had not been explained to the House. He ventured to throw an interrogation across the House, and he had since had a private reply that it was for armour on the contract ships. He asked what contract ships were to be pushed forward in this way, because the delays had been extraordinary, even as compared with those they were led to anticipate in the debates last year. The Civil Lord took credit to the Admiralty, and congratulated the country on the fact that four launches were to take place at once. In addition to the one battleship which the hon. Member for Devonport described, there were a number of private contract ships which had been delayed to an extraordinary extent. His hon. friend opposite would admit that the reasons given last year by Mr. Goschen for that delay were altogether inapplicable in the circumstances. The "Albion" was in the programme of 1896, she was launched in 1898, but was not yet in commission, while there were three Japanese battleships larger than the "Albion," which were begun after that ship, which were first announced by the Japanese Government long after the programme in which the "Albion" was announced, all built in England, and all of which were in commission at the present time. These Japanese ships received their armour and guns from English sources. Two of them were in commission in the Far East, and the other was about to proceed thither. These were tangible facts. They could not be disputed. He mentioned also the "Formidable" and the "Irresistible," both of which were in the 1897 programme, and launched in 1898, and neither of which was yet in commission. The "Implacable" and the "Vengeance" were in the 1897 programme, and launched in 1899, but not yet ready. The "London" had been more delayed than all the others. He asked specifically with regard to these ships what was the cause of the delay compared with the more rapid completion of ships for foreign Governments in the shipbuilding yards of this country? Mr. Goschen impressed upon the House the necessity for four new armoured cruisers as part of the 1897 programme. When would these cruisers—"Cressy," "Hogue," "Aboukir," "Sutlej"—be ready for service? The delay in the completion of the ships he had spoken of had been greater than was anticipated.

*SIR JOHN COLOMB (Great Yarmouth) associated himself entirely with what had been said by the hon. Member for Devonport and the right hon. Baronet the Member for Forest of Dean. He trusted that the Admiralty would realise that there was a strong feeling throughout the country that we could not complete ships within the time specified for their completion or a reasonable time at all. The Admiralty should be able to fulfil its requirements with regard to certain ships within the necessary time in relation to the production of foreign nations. Unless the Government were prepared, when the Navy Estimates were introduced, to take the House and the country into their confidence, explain the causes of delays in the completion of ships, and satisfy the House that they had taken measures to remove those causes, they would fail in their duty. No party ties would induce any supporter of the Government to vote for them if the Admiralty showed they were not alive to the consequences of delays, and took no steps to remedy them. His hon. friend the Member for the Shipley Division had stated that the British Navy should be equal to any three others that might be brought against it. He had always protested against these rule of thumb standards. The real test of naval strength was not a matter merely of counting ships. It was necessary to take many other things into consideration.

*MR. PRETYMAN: I am conscious that the short time I have served the country at the Admiralty does not enable me to deal as the House would wish with the grave questions that have been raised. Although it is only right and proper that the questions which have been raised should be discussed, I think hon. Members will realise that within a very few days a statement will be made on the main Estimates by the Financial Secretary. I think the Committee will share the view that it would be more fitting for me to answer briefly, as far as I can, the questions which have been put to me, and to leave the general question of the efficiency of the Navy to be dealt with, as it will be more properly, on the main Naval Estimates. Let me say a word or two with regard to the delay in construction. I think I may claim that the fact of there being a supplementary estimate for about £300,000 for money spent more than was anticipated a year ago is a proof that we have made some advance. It should never be lost sight of that in regard to this question of construction our main difficulties began with the great engineering strike, and we have never really reached the point of rapidity at which we then stood. Another point is that in regard to the time in which a ship can be constructed the governing factor is the machinery. The time of launching is, after all, only an incident, and it is not a fair statement to say that because one ship is launched in eight months, another in seven, and another in seventeen months, and yet are all commissioned about the same time, it shows a varying practice and a varying amount of supervision on the part of the Admiralty. The time of launching is not an indication of the state of progress in the construction of a ship. When a ship is launched largely depends upon whether the slip is immediately required for laying down another ship. The Admiralty fully recognise the justice of the criticisms which have been delivered with regard to the delays in shipbuilding, and there is as keen a desire and as firm an intention on their part as have been expressed by hon. Members here to do everything in their power to accelerate the progress of construction and to turn out the ships within the least possible time. The measures which will be taken to that end will more properly be put before the Committee by the Financial Secretary, and unless any further specific questions are put to me I would leave the general question there.

MR. BARTLEY (Islington, N.): You have not explained why Japanese boats can be built so much more rapidly than our own.

*MR. PRETYMAN: Well, I think it is perhaps hardly fair to take one or two particular ships. The Japanese have not ordered so many ships in England as we have. We have a very large number under construction, and perhaps it is not difficult to take out our slowest and show that the Japanese have been turned out more rapidly. We have many contractors at work, and it is impossible that all the contracts can be executed within the time. We have no doubt been unfortunate in the delay of some of our contracts. I do not wish to be taken as complaining of the criticisms of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Forest of Dean. The Japanese ships were turned out quickly, but we have had ships turned out quickly also. The particular ships mentioned by the right hon. Gentleman certainly were rather backward. With regard to the question of repairs, I was asked whether I could name the actual ships on which the extra expenditure had been incurred and the amounts. I can do so. It is a long list, but the ships mentioned by the hon. Member for Gateshead, namely, the "Burmese," the "Europa," and the "Powerful," are not in it. The total extra amount incurred was £34,000, in amounts varying from £1,000 to £3,000 per ship. In regard to the individual ships upon which the extra contract sum was spent, I regret I can make no further statement at present other than that it was almost all for armour, which was delivered for various contract ships under construction in different parts. The Admiralty officials are at the present moment unable to specify upon which particular ships the amounts were incurred, but it is sufficient, I think, that the general programme of shipbuilding has been advanced. The point second in importance raised to-night has been, I think, the question of coal contracts and the increase in price. The hon. Member for Gateshead has vigorously attacked the Admiralty on that matter, and he told us that commercial firms were in the habit of making the contracts beforehand.

MR. WILLIAM ALLAN: In October.

*MR. PRETYMAN: But we have heard complaints from all the great railway companies, and engineering and ironwork firms, that the high price of coal has reduced their dividends and made it almost impossible for them to carry on their businesses. I have not heard of a single great firm throughout the country whose business involves any large expenditure on coal which has not had to incur increased expenditure and pay reduced dividends in consequence of the increased price of coal. The Admiralty wish to be placed on the same footing as a business firm. As business firms have had to go to their shareholders and complain that their expenses have increased and their dividends diminished, so the Admiralty have to come to the Committee and say they have spent more money than they expected to do. The only difference between the Admiralty and a business firm is that the latter is at liberty to make contracts when it likes. If a director of a company, from information received, was able to inform his colleagues that coal would shortly go up in price and remain at that increased price for fifteen months, that company would be able to make contracts, if anybody would enter into them, to cover those fifteen months. But the Admiralty have to come to Parliament for a vote, and a great deal would be said by hon. Members if the Admiralty were to enter into huge contracts for coal three months before the money was voted by Parliament. Then we are told that instead of buying coal at 13s., when we might have done, we preferred to buy at 29s. In that matter we are in exactly the same position as a business firm. We provide for our foreseen requirements at what appears to us to be the best price. But when unforeseen demands arise we have to make the best arrangements we can. I must apologise for not having stated this in my original statement. The whole of this increase in regard to coal is not on account of the rise in price. Practically one half is due to that factor, but the other half is due to the increased quantity that had to be bought in consequence of the trouble in China. That is the point upon which I am at issue with the hon. Member for Gateshead. He says we might have bought last October twelvemonth all the coal we required to see us through the China trouble, which did not break out until eleven months later.

Mr. WILLIAM ALLAN: You could have covered yourself for twelve months, the same as any business firm does.

*Mr. PRETYMAN: I do not know of any firm which does so cover itself.

Mr. WILLIAM ALLAN: Every shipowning firm does.

*Mr. PRETYMAN: It covers its ordinary foreseen requirements.

Mr. WILLIAM ALLAN: No.

*Mr. PRETYMAN: A firm that is carried on on business lines has ordinary annual requirements, and it makes its contracts on the lines of the quantities required in the ordinary way of business for the year. But if an entirely unforeseen occurrence takes place halfway through the year, and there is a large demand for coal, that firm will have to buy at the then price. That is exactly the position in which the Admiralty found themselves when the China trouble broke out. They were brought face to face with the question, Are we to buy coal which is necessary for the service of the country, not only for the supply of the Navy during this crisis, but also, as is essential when such a trouble occurs, to increase the stocks at our foreign stations, which it might be difficult to do after war had broken out? Could we hesitate for one moment in answering such a question, even if the price of coal was as high as 29s. a ton? In regard to the victualling, a question was asked incidentally as to when the Report of the Committee might be expected. In answer to that I would say that the Committee are now considering their Report, but as it has not yet been presented it is impossible for me to say when it will be laid before the House. The hon. Member for Wokingham asked a question as to piloting. There is no question whatever of there being any less efficiency on the part of naval officers so far as their qualifications for piloting are concerned. This sum is almost entirely due to extra canal dues on vessels going through the Suez Canal on their way to China. The hon. Member for Gateshead asked what was the sum per month we are paying for the ss. "Ophir," and great fault was found because the word "hire" instead of "charter" was used. It is a charter, of course. The "Ophir" is a vessel of 6,910 tons. She is perhaps one of the most suitable vessels existing at present for the services for which she has been chartered. The sum we are paying is £1 per ton per month.

MR. WILLIAM ALLAN: Then you are paying £6,910 per month ?

*MR. PRETYMAN: We are paying £1 per ton per month, and the tonnage is 6,910. She will be manned with a crew from the Royal Navy and Royal Marines, with the exception of the engine-room staff, stewards, and cooks, who are being provided by the owners. The fitting of the ship has been carried out by the owners. I think I have now answered all questions of general importance which have been put to me, and I must ask the indulgence of the Committee for any deficiences on my part. Nothing will more encourage the Admiralty in their endeavour to carry on this work to the satisfaction of the House and the country than to see that the House takes a real interest in the matter. I do not think the benches have always been very well filled during the discussions on the Navy Estimates, but the Admiralty certainly have no wish to slur the matters through without discussion. It is through what transpires here that we shall feel we have the support of the House, and through the House the support of the country, in using every endeavour to accelerate the progress of construction and to make the Navy, not on paper, but in actual fact, one of which the country may be proud, and which will be able to discharge its duties in the manner in which they have always been discharged up to the present.

SIR JAMES JOICEY (Durham, Chester-le-Street): I congratulate the hon. Gentleman the Civil Lord on his appearance in this debate, and I am sure the great ability he has exhibited augurs well for the successful management of Admiralty affairs in this House. But I confess I am not quite satisfied with one or two of his replies. With regard to the delay in building our battleships, I was much surprised when he said that it was quite a usual thing, after a ship was launched, for her to have to wait at least six months for her machinery.

*MR. PRETYMAN: I did not state that.

SIR JAMES JOICEY: Perhaps the hon. Gentleman will explain, but that was my impression.

*MR. PRETYMAN: I think the hon. Member for Devonport said that.

SIR JAMES JOICEY: If that be the case I am at a loss to understand why Japanese vessels—some of which were built on the Tyne—have been delivered so much more quickly than those intended for His Majesty's Government. When a vessel is arranged to be built it is provided that the machinery has to be put on board as soon as she is ready for it after launching, and I do not understand why there should be this delay in connection with His Majesty's ships. I believe that contracts could easily be made with any of the largest shipbuilding firms to deliver any class of vessel the Government might require within two years. These delays are a great disappointment, but I have been told by contractors that the great difficulty they have to contend with is, that the Admiralty inspectors go down to the yards, presumably to inspect the building—which is a very proper thing to do—but the contractors say that after they have received the designs and plans little or big alterations are continually being made, and these alterations are the means of seriously delaying the work and considerably adding to the cost. The result is, that many of the best shipbuilding firms refuse to contract with the Admiralty, because, as they say, they do not know what the contract means. When they take a contract from a private firm they know exactly what they have to do, but in dealing with His Majesty's Government they never know what the inspectors will expect them to do, and often after the work has been done in a manner satisfactory to any reasonable person, they have to pull it to pieces and do it over again. I hope His Majesty's Government will take more care in making their contracts and fixing their date, because, as a practical man who has had some experience of these matters, I feel that these delays are unnecessary and could be avoided. The hon. Member said that the fact that they were spending more money proved that they were pressing things forward more rapidly, and almost in the same breath he stated that the reason of the delay in delivering the vessels was the engineering strike. Everybody who has had anything to do with shipbuilding during the engineering strike knows that instead of increasing the cost it considerably decreased the expenditure in a particular year, because if the ships were not delivered a very much smaller sum had to be paid, so that the one argument is practically destructive of the other. Another question with which the hon. Gentleman did not deal satisfactorily was with regard to the "Ophir." I understand that something like £400,000 was fixed as the expenditure upon the Royal yacht in the last Estimates. There must have been at least £100,000 or £150,000 expended in connection with that vessel, and why does it not appear in this Estimate? I presume we shall see it when the general Estimates are presented; therefore I shall not press that question now. I was glad to hear the reply to the hon. Member for Wokingham. I was not startled that there should be a considerable sum for pilotage. There are cases when it is better to have a skilled pilot, one who knows the particular port or the coast-line of the particular district to which a large battleship has to go, rather than take the risk of running such a vessel, costing £1,000,000 or £1,500,000, ashore. It is a common practice with ordinary shipowners, when a ship goes to a port with which the captain is not very familiar, to employ skilled pilots, and I think the Government should do the same. When the sea is so rough that the skilled pilot is unable to get out to the ship, the owner, of course, has to rely upon the captain's own guidance in the matter. The Government would be well advised to give expert assistance to some commanders of our naval vessels if they thought it advisable to have it, but, naturally, in time of war they would have to rely upon themselves.

*Sir JOHN COLOMB asked, in reference to his hon. friend's statement that all the ship's complement for the "Ophir," with the exception of the engineering staff, was to be furnished by the Royal Navy, and that the engineers would be furnished by the owners, whether the charge for the engineers was included in the Vote.

*Mr. PRETYMAN: No, Sir.

Sir JOHN COLOMB said that then there would have to be another Vote. He also wished to know whether all the men would be Navy Reserve men, and also how discipline was to be maintained, as part of the crew would belong to the Royal Navy and part be under the Merchant Shipping Act.

Mr. E. J. C. MORTON (Devonport) said he recognised that there was not now time to deal with several questions relating to the men in the naval dockyards, in which he was interested, and therefore he would postpone them until another occasion. After the courteous and able way in which the Civil Lord of the Admiralty had treated the Vote he did not wish to add to his difficulties. There was one question, however, which he should like to put to the hon. and gallant Gentleman. As late as last August Mr. Goschen appointed a Committee to inquire into the question of water-tube boilers. That was an extremely intricate question from the point of view of persons who were not experts. A rumour had found its way into the press that the Committee was about to make an interim Report shortly. He wished to know whether that was a fact, and also whether the Report would deal with the question as to the distinction between the Belleville boilers and other forms of water-tube boilers. They all understood the difference between water-tube and fire-tube boilers, both as regarded advantages and disadvantages, but he for one did not understand the difference between one form of water-tube boiler and another.

*The CHAIRMAN: I do not see how the hon. Member can connect a Report of a Committee on the Belleville boiler with the Vote now before the Committee.

Mr. E. J. C. MORTON: Would it not come under the Contracts Vote?

*The CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member would be entitled to object to certain boilers in ships, but I cannot see how he can connect an interim Report of a Committee now sitting with the present Vote.

MR. E. J. C. MORTON: I suppose I am entitled to ask whether there is to be an interim Report, as the answer would affect the way in which I should vote?

*CAPTAIN PRETYMAN: If the question does not arise on this Vote it would be more convenient to put down a question.

MR. DILLON said he had listened to the debate for a long time, and every hon. Member who had spoken had spoken in encouragement of the Admiralty in their wild career of extravagance. That was a most lamentable condition of things, and it appeared to him that it was time that the voice of economy should be heard, and that, after the eloquence to which the Committee had been treated by experts anxious to see more millions expended, someone should speak on behalf of the taxpayer, who would have to find the money. He proposed to move the reduction of the Vote by £1,000,000. They were now called upon to give a supplementary sum of £1,250,000 towards the Naval Estimates for the current year. That was not only a Supplementary Estimate, but it was a Supplementary Estimate in addition to what had been described as an additional Estimate. Of course they knew to their cost that during a time of war they were called upon to vote Supplementary Estimates for the Army or the Navy, as the case might be, but the war in South Africa had no effect on the Navy, and the Navy had not been called upon for any unusual exertions. Therefore they might treat the Navy as being on a peace footing. But, besides the sum now ask d for, they were called upon in July last to vote what was described as an additional Estimate of £1,269,000. Therefore the whole additional Supplementary Estimate asked for the Navy during the current year was over £2,500,000. If hon. Members would look at the history of the British Navy they would find nothing to equal such a condition of things as that. The First Lord of the Admiralty, in making his Naval statement for 1900–1, announced that the total Estimate for that year was £27,522,600, an increase of £928,100 over the Estimate for 1899–1900. They were now called upon to make a further increase of over two and a half millions, or, in other words, the cost of the Navy for the present year, without any additional expense attributable to the war or to warlike preparations, was three and a half millions over the cost of the previous year.

That was only the beginning of the story. The Committee had listened to the speech of the hon. and gallant Gentleman opposite, who gave expression to the sentiments held by the patriotic gentlemen who constituted the Navy League, and who were continually clamouring for increased armaments. He declared that what was wanted was a large and continuous increase in the cost of the Navy, and therefore the Committee had the pleasant prospect of having to consider a still further increase next year. He asked himself where that policy was going to stop. Some years ago an hon. Member announced the proposition that the British Navy should be kept always equal to the navies of the next two greatest Powers in the world. The effect of that was, as he and other hon. Members ventured to prophesy at the time, that the navies of the two great Powers specified were enormously increased, and the argument used in Russia and France in support of the increases was the very statement made in the House of Commons that the British intended to be masters of the sea. To-night an hon. Gentlemen announced that the standard, as he called it, for the future should be that the British Navy should be kept up to a point of equality with the navies of any three other Powers. He ventured to describe that as a career of madness. When Mr. Gladstone retired from public life they were led to believe, and he for his part did believe it, that one of the motives which induced him to retire at that particular moment was that his own friends insisted upon a substantial increase of the Navy, and Mr. Gladstone, with his immense experience, dating from the early years of the century and from the days of Sir Robert Peel, was convinced that if he consented to that increase, it would be impossible to tell where such a policy would end. What had happened? When the Naval Estimates were introduced in 1895 the then Civil Lord of the Admiralty said that ten years previously the total Naval Estimates were just over twelve millions, and that they were then asking for eighteen millions for that year. It was that increase which contributed to the retirement of Mr. Gladstone from public life. They had now reached a figure of over thirty millions, or an increase of twelve millions within the last five years. Those were figures which ought to make the Committee pause and reflect on the course they were asked to pursue. As Mr. Gladstone prophesied in 1895 would be the case, the increase then voted was a geometrical increase, and increased more rapidly in every succeeding year. During the debates on the Navy Estimates in the last few years there had never been a hint or a sign that they were reaching the limit.

Some hon. Members appeared to be under the delusion that England had such boundless resources that she could arrogantly take up the position of standing against the world in arms, and that she could hold the seas against the world. Such language was the language of madness, and would inevitably lead to the national ruin. If hon. Members continued to talk such preposterous language, and if they could get their views carried into effect, it could lead to nothing but national ruin. They could not hold the seas against the world in arms, and what had happened during the last few years had shown that such boasts were weak and foolish. They had encouraged the United States in a mad career of building a fleet and engaging in what was called an Imperial policy. He believed that the people and the statesmen of England would bitterly rue the day in which they excited and encouraged the United States. If the United States were to take up that wild idea of naval armament it would put England to the pin of her collar to hold her own. Then there were the Japanese fleet and the German fleet, which formerly amounted to almost nothing, but which, largely owing to the boasts and insults of England, had been doubled and quadrupled during the last few years. It was absurd for England to attempt to maintain that world-wide supremacy of the seas which she maintained for many years. If England sought to be mistress of the seas, then he prophesied that the day was not far distant when the British taxpayer would be crushed under a burden which he was no longer able to bear. He and other hon. Members had in recent years fought doggedly against increases in the Navy and in the Army, though he confessed he never thought expenditure would increase at such a rate as would satisfy hon. Gentlemen on the opposite side, who were continually clamouring for money, and whose appetite grew on what it fed on. The more money that was voted the more they wanted. A gentleman, describing himself as Chairman of the Navy League, made a prophecy in *The Times* newspaper in December last which had been borne out in a most remarkable manner. He denounced Mr. Goschen, and stated he had been for a long time incapable of mastering the difficulties which confronted him at the Admiralty. He pointed out how the universal antipathy of the German people had found expression in the doubling of their fleet, and he said that the conclusion was irresistible that the management of marine affairs during the five years of the late Government had been incompetent, with the result that England had lost command of the seas. It was the opinion of the Chairman of the Navy League that, after twelve millions had been added to the expense of the British Navy, the result was that England had lost command of the seas. That was nice encouragement for the taxpayer. *The Times* newspaper, commenting on that conclusion, spoke of the Navy League as possessing an energetic policy, but it seemed to him as if it were suffering from the malady known as "political hysterics." Unless the Admiralty took the man who shouted the loudest, and made him their head, they would not satisfy the Navy League. Instead of applying themselves to remedy the evils and defects which experts were continually pointing out, the Admiralty seemed to have set themselves the impossible task of satisfying the cry of the Navy League for more money without any regard as to how it should be spent. They could not satisfy the Navy League, and they were now pursuing a career which, if continued much further, must end in absolute bankruptcy or a revolt on the part of the taxpayers. There was no assurance that the money was to be spent in such a way as that value would be had for it. No hon. Gentleman had spoken in stronger terms on the subject than the Chancellor of the Exchequer himself. He delivered a speech about a year ago in Bristol, in which he defended the Government from the attacks of the Navy League. He said that the year before his Government came into office the expenditure of the Navy was fifteen millions, and that they had raised that expenditure in five years to twenty-five millions. The Chancellor of the Exchequer regarded twenty-five millions as a great achievement, but now they were asked to vote thirty millions, and with every prospect of a still higher figure being demanded. He, therefore, would take that opportunity of protesting against the increased expenditure now proposed.

There was one item in the Supplementary Estimate—namely, £30,000, for the seizure and detention of vessels on the South African coast—to which he wished to refer. The Civil Lord of the Admiralty did not give an explanation of that, and he thought it very hard that the taxpayers should be called upon to pay £30,000 for proceedings which were a flagrant breach of the usages of war. He should like to know what reprimand had been addressed to the officers for the seizure of vessels engaged in carrying food to Lorenzo Marques. He begged to move the reduction of the Vote by one million.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That an additional sum, not exceeding £250,000, be granted for the said Services."—(*Mr. Dillon.*)

Mr. CREAN (Cork, S.E.) said he desired to support the reduction. It was not necessary for him to add anything to what had been stated by his hon. friend, but he wished particularly to bring before the Committee the treatment meted out to Ireland in connection with naval expenditure. He had the honour of representing a Division in which a shipbuilding yard was located, which, however, for many years had been boycotted. The men had either to walk the streets idle, or cross over to England to seek employment. The Civil Lord of the Admiralty stated that the cause of the delay in executing shipbuilding work was that the shipyards were not able to cope with it. There were many shipyards which had not had a pound's worth of work from the Admiralty, and they would get it were it not that the Admiralty had pet yards. Why should the work be confined to the pet yards of the Admiralty? Even if other yards got work, the inspectors were on the pounce, and watched carefully every man working on a boiler or fitting a plate on the vessel. He would not complain if that course were also carried out in other dockyards, but it was not. In the yards to which he was referring the work contracted for had not only to be completed, but every whim of every official had also to be carried out. That was the reason why some of the best yards in Ireland—which were some of the best in the world—would not take Navy contracts. Why were not Navy contracts taken in Belfast? He objected on that ground to the Supplementary Estimates. He believed that 50 per cent. of the Estimate was dishonest, though, of course, he did not accuse the hon. Gentleman opposite of doing anything dishonest or dishonourable. What he intended to convey was that proper supervision was not exercised over the work executed in the pet yards of the Admiralty. In his own constituency they dreaded to take a contract from the Navy, not that they could not turn out the work well, because they had been already complimented by the Admiralty. He asked for no favours, but that his constituents should get the common right of taxpayers who were contributing to the present extraordinary expense. They at least might be allowed to compete with English firms on equal terms.

The action of the Admiralty in asking for such a large Estimate was not surprising, because hon. Members connected with the Navy League were prepared to encourage them in their extravagance. The Admiralty were encouraged not to economise, and they were given to understand that they would get what they wished to ask for. The Irish Members protested against such conduct. He was very glad that the reduction had been moved, and he would vote for it. He pitied England if her boast that she would meet the world in arms was as poor as her boast about her Army. If England could do with her Navy only what she had been able to do with her Army, it would not be much. The other day he read of ships in the Navy, supposed to be fitted to undertake any emergency, which had to be docked for repairs. He believed that nine-tenths of the ships in the British Navy were in the same condition, and were not in any sense as well equipped as the ships of the mercantile marine. The British mercantile marine was the best in the world, but he doubted very much if the British Navy would be capable of meeting the navies of any two other Powers.

THE CHAIRMAN: I do not think it is open to discuss the general condition of the Navy on this Vote.

MR. CREAN said it was the efficiency of the Navy they were discussing, and his point was that the money was wasted because it was not efficiently expended. If they were to judge the efficiency of the Navy by the efficiency of the Army they would have to remodel their naval system completely, not only with regard to supervision of extravagant expenditure, but also as regards construction. At present vessels were not built in accordance with the original design, and no actual Estimate could therefore be framed for them. When a contractor got it into his head that the work was not to be completed according to specification, and that the design might be changed a hundred times over, he did not mind, because it put extra money into his pocket. The hon. Baronet who spoke recently stated that a commercial firm wishing to build a steamship entered into a contract which was carried out to the letter, and in accordance with the designs, and the result was that the ship was built for the price originally fixed. Ships for the Navy were never contracted for on proper lines, and were never built within 25 per cent. of the original estimate. The result was that extravagant expenditure was called for every year, and that extravagant Supplementary Estimates were brought forward without any details being given. Even the present Estimates were not final, because the Civil Lord of the Admiralty said that there would have to be another Estimate for the engineering staff of the "Ophir." He had great pleasure in supporting the reduction moved by his hon. friend.

MR. JOYCE said he desired to make a few remarks on some of the sub-heads of the Supplementary Estimates. He entirely agreed with what the hon. and gallant Gentleman opposite said with regard to the sub-heads dealing with the wages, provisions and clothing of seamen. He would not object to any money spent in making the seamen more comfortable, but those sub-heads were very small indeed, whereas the amounts under other sub-heads had been enormously increased. After the very able and lucid speech of the hon. Member for Gateshead, he would merely content himself with recording his protest against the enormously increased expenditure of £700,000 for coal. He thought the hon. Member had proved his case with regard to that, and although the Civil Lord of the Admiralty made a very nice and a very pretty speech he did not answer it. Then there was a sub-head for piloting His Majesty's ships. The hon. Gentleman said that, as a matter of fact, the large amount of money mentioned in the sub-head was not all for piloting. If it were paid for canal dues or otherwise, it should be placed in its proper position. He ventured to submit that piloting did not cost a fifth of the money.

*MR. PRETYMAN: £11,000.

MR. JOYCE said there was only one other matter he desired to deal with, and that was a supplementary sum of £8,000 for telegraphic communications. Many Parliaments had been known by peculiar names. He had read of the Long Parliament, and the Short Parliament, and the Rump Parliament. Now they had the Parliament of Telegraphic Communications. In every Estimate that was brought before the Committee the amount of money that was expended on telegraphic communications was simply enormous. He thought his hon. friend the Member for East Mayo was acting in the interests of the taxpayers when he moved to reduce the Vote, and he would support him.

MR. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.) said that the hon. and gallant Gentleman opposite, in his friendly criticism of the proposals of the Government, stated that in connection with the Navy, England was not exceeding the expenditure of other European countries, and was simply following their lead. From a recent Parliamentary Return, it would, however, appear that His Majesty's Navy had been increasing, was increasing and would continue to increase, and that England was leading other countries in naval expenditure. Was the Committee justified in voting the huge amount of money spent on the Navy? Were the condition of the Navy bad, were its ships in such a rotten condition that they would not be seaworthy, then they might be justified in incurring reasonable expenditure, but the question they had to consider was whether the present expenditure was reasonable or just, and whether it was in proportion to revenue, and in proportion to the naval expenditure of other countries. He would quote for the information of the Committee a few figures from the Parliamentary Return to which he had referred. It would appear from that Return that the naval expenditure of the United Kingdom in 1897–8 was twenty-two millions out of a total revenue of 108 millions, or twenty per cent. He should like to know if there were any European countries that had such a large naval expenditure as compared with its aggregate revenue. The information he had led him to believe that there was no such country. In Russia the naval expediture was only six millions as compared with an aggregate revenue of 147 millions, or only four per cent. In Germany the naval expenditure was six millions, as compared with seventy millions of revenue. With reference to France, many Englishmen appeared much afraid of that country, and seemed to think that her naval power was not second to that of England, although that was a question of trial between the two nations. And he believed that the day was not far off when the issue would be fought out. [AN HON. MEMBER laughed.] Hon. Gentlemen might laugh, but they knew down in the bottom of their hearts that for the last two years naval experts had been declaring that the British Navy was bad. Two years ago an hon. Member who stated that the British Army could not take away the freedom of a farming community in South Africa would not be listened to, but he would be listened to now. What did he find as regards the naval expenditur eof France? It was only nine millions as compared with a revenue of 102 millions. He found that the naval expenditure of Great Britain was in one year equal to that of France, Germany and Russia combined.

The question which hon. Members from Ireland had to consider was not whether these sums were necessary for the purpose of protecting the Empire, because they were not there to protect the Empire. They came there with the courage of their convictions, and told hon. Members what they thought about them. They came to demand justice for Ireland, and they knew that ever since the Union the contributions of Ireland had always been excessive. According to a Royal Commission appointed by hon. Members opposite—a jury empannelled by themselves—a verdict of guilty was brought home to them. It was the bounden duty of hon. Members from Ireland to protest against the increased expenditure in connection with the Army and Navy. The present revised Estimate in connection with the Navy was £30,419,000. He had shown, according to the Parliamentary Return for 1897–8, that the naval expenditure was then only twenty-two millions. The Irish Members wanted to know who was getting value for that greatly increased expenditure. Ireland received no benefit from it, directly or indirectly. Their shipbuilding yards were idle, and the British Government would not even give a gunboat to protect Irish fisheries which were at the mercy of the foreigner. Ireland had to pay part of this increased taxation not only in money, but even in blood shed in South Africa. The Irish Members protested against the war when it began, and told the Government what the consequences would be. Irish Members now told the Government unhesitatingly that if through some foreign complication England came into conflict with her neighbour across the Channel, the British Navy would be as inferior to the French navy as the British Army was to the Boer army. [Laughter.] Hon. Gentlemen might laugh, but the Irish Members told them the same about the Army. He believed that if the issue had to be fought out in the morning, France would show a superiority over the British Navy. There were very large questions affecting Ireland which arose out of the Vote before the Committee, because Ireland had to contribute a sum of more than £3,000,000 a year beyond her just proportion. What did Ireland get in return? The Irish Members had endeavoured to elicit information in regard to contracts for the Navy and Army. The Government was generous enough in giving huge coal contracts at the enormous price of twenty-nine shillings per ton, when contracts could have been entered into at thirteen shillings per ton——

MR. A. J. BALFOUR rose in his place and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 221; Noes, 82. (Division List No. 35.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allen, Charles P (Glouc., Stroud
Allhusen, Augustus H. Eden
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W. (Leeds
Balfour, Maj K R. (Christchurch
Banbury, Frederick
Bartley, George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol
Beach, Rt. Hn. W. W. B. (Hants.
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Arthur
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Brand, Hon. Arthur G.
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Bull, William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Carlile, William Walter
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.
Chamberlain, J Austen (Worc'r
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jessse
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
Cook, Frederick Lucas
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Cranborne, Viscount
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Dewar, T. R (T'r H'mlets, S. Geo.
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dimsdale, Sir Joseph Cockfield
Dorington, Sir John Edward
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, George Denison
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J (Manc'r
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Fuller, J. M. F.
Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H (City of Lond.
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin & Nairn)
Gordon, Maj Evans (T'r H'mlets
Gore, Hon. F. S. Ormsby-
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Graham, Henry Robert
Grant, Corrie
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Green, Walford D (Wednesbury
Greene, W. Raymond-(Cambs.)
Groves, James Grimble
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Rt Hn. Ld. G (Midd'x
Hamilton, Marq of (L'nd'nderry
Harris, F. Leverton (Tynem'th
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanley
Heath, James (Staffords. N. W.
Helder, Augustus
Henderson, Alexander
Holland, William Henry
Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside
Hoult, Joseph
Hutton, John (Yorks. N. R.)
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Joicey, Sir James
Kenyon, Hon. G. T. (Denbigh
Keswick, William
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Kitson, Sir James
Knowles, Lees
Lambton, Hon. Frederick W.
Lawrence, William F.
Lawson, John Grant
Lecky, Rt. Hon. William E. H.
Leese, Sir Jos. F. (Accrington
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leighton, Stanley
Leveson-Gower, Fred. N. S.
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Rt. Hon. W. (Bristol, S.
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsm'uth
Macdona, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Chas. (Liverpool)
M'Calmont, Col. J. (Antrim, E.
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Markham, Arthur Basil
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfriessh.
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Milner, Rt. Hn. Sir Fredrick G.
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropsh.)
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow
Morrell, George Herbert
Morris, Hn. Martin Henry F
Morrison, James Archibald
Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Partington, Oswald
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Pilkington, Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward

Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Reed, Sir E. James (Cardiff)
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Rentoul, James Alexander
Renwick, George
Ridley, Hn. M. W. (Stalybridge)
Ridley, S. Forde (Bethnal Green
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Charles T.
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Rothschild, Hn. Lionel Walter
Round, James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, John
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alex.
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Sandys, Lt.-Col Thos. Myles
Schwann, Charles E.
Seton-Karr, Henry
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, H C (North'mb Tyneside
Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stock, James Henry
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Stroyan, John
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G (Oxf'd Univ
Thomas, F. Freeman-(Hastings
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Tufnell, Col. Edward
Valentia, Viscount
Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E.
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Webb, Colonel William George
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whiteley, H. (Ashton-u.-Lyne
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wills, Sir Frederick
Wilson, A. Stanley (Yorks, E. R.
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES— Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Ambrose, Robert
Boland, John
Boyle, James
Brigg, John
Brown, George M. (Edinburgh
Burke, E. Haviland-
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Carvill, Patrick Geo. Hamilton
Cawley, Frederick
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter
Crean, Eugene
Cullinan, J.
Daly, James
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Delany, William
Dillon, John
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Elibank, Master of
Field, William
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gilhooly, James
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Hammond, John
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (Bristol, E.)
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Patrick James
Lambert, George
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Levy, Maurice
Lundon, W.
Macdonnell, Dr. Mark A.
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Govern, T.
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kenna, Reginald
Mooney, John J.
Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Col. J. P. (Galway, N.)
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary, Mid.)
O'Connor, Jas. Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, J. (Roscommon, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Rea, Russell
Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Redmond, J. E. (Waterford)
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
Thomson, F. W. (York, W. R.)
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Tully, Jasper
Warner, Thomas Courtenay, T.
White, P. (Meath, North)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer

TELLERS FOR THE NOES— Captain Donelan and Mr. Patrick O'Brien.

Question put accordingly, "That an additional sum, not exceeding £250,000, be granted for the said Services."

The Committee divided:—Ayes 52; Noes, 248. (Division List No. 36.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.
Ambrose, Robert
Boland, John
Boyle, James
Burke, E. Haviland-
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Carvill, Patrick Geo. Hamilton
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cullinan, J.
Daly, J.
Delany, William
Dillon, John
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Field, William
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Gilhooly, James
Hammond, John

Hayden, John Patrick
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Patrick James
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Govern, T.
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
Mooney, John J.
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipper'ry Mid
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, J. (Roscommon, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Sullivan, Donal
Tully, Jasper
White, Patrick (Meath, North)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Captain Donelan and Mr. Patrick O'Brien.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allen, Chas. P. (Glouc. Stroud)
Allhusen, Augustus Hy. Eden
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John

Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W (Leeds
Balfour, Maj. K. R. (Christch'ch
Banbury, Frederick George
Bartley, George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol
Beach, Rt. Hn. W. W. B. (Hants
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Arthur G.
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Brand, Hon. Arthur
Brassey, Albert
Brigg, John
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Brown, George M. (Edinburgh)
Bull, William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.

Caldwell, James
Carlile, William Walter
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs).
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.
Cawley, Frederick
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm
Chamberlain, J Austen (Worc'r
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
Cook, Frederick Lucas
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Craig, Robert Hunter
Cranborne, Viscount
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Dewar, T. R. (T'r H'mlets, S. Geo
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dimsdale, Sir Joseph Cockfield
Dorington, Sir John Edward
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Elibank, Master of
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, George Denison
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J (Manc'r
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Fuller, J. M. F.
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H (City of Lond
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin & Nairn
Gordon, Maj Evans-(T'r H'ml'ts
Gore, Hon. F. S. Ormsby-
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Green, Walford D. (Wedn'sb'ry
Greene, W. Raymond-(Cambs.)
Groves, James Grimble
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G. (Mid'x
Hamilton, Marq of (L'nd'nderry
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harris, F. Leverton (Tyn'mouth
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanl'y
Heath, James (Staffords. N. W.
Helder, Augustus
Henderson, Alexander
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (Bristol, E.)
Holland, William Henry
Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside
Hoult, Joseph
Hutton, John (Yorks. N. R.)
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, William (Carnarv'nshire
Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (Denbigh)
Keswick, William
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Kitson, Sir James
Knowles, Lees

Lambert, George
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lawrence, William F.
Lawson, John Grant
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lecky, Rt. Hn. William Edw. H.
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leighton, Stanley
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Levy, Maurice
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S.
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas, Reginald J. (P'rtsmouth

Macdona, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Calmont, Col. J. (Antrim, E.)
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Markham, Arthur Basil
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell, W J H (Dumfriesshire
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Milner, Rt. Hn. Sir Frederick G.
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
More, R. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morris, Hon. M. Henry F.
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)
Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
Murray, Chas. J. (Coventry)
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian

Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Partington, Oswald
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Pilkington, Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George

Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Rea, Russell
Reckitt, Harold James
Reed, Sir E. James (Cardiff)
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Rentoul, James Alexander
Renwick, George
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridley, Hn. M. W. (St'lybridge)
Ridley, S F. (Bethnal Green)
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. C. Thomson
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Rothschild, Hon. L. Walter
Round, James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, John
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alex.
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Sandys, Lt.-Col. Thos. Myles
Seton-Karr, Henry
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, H. C (North'mb. Tynesd.
Smith, James P. (Lanarks.)
Soames, Arthur Wesleyan
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stock, James Henry
Stroyan, John
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Rt Hn J G (Oxford Univ.
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
Thomas, F. Freeman-(Hastings
Thomson, F. W. (York, W. R.)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, W. Edward M.
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Tufnell, Col. Edward
Valentia, Viscount
Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E.
Warner, Thomas Courteny T.
Wason, John C. (Orkney)
Webb, Colonel William Geo.
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whiteley, H (Ashton-und. L'ne
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whitmore, Charles Algenon
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wills, Sir Frederick
Wilson, A. S. (York, E. R.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson, J W (Worcesterhire, N.
Wilson-Todd, W. H. (Yorks.)
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR claimed, "That the Original Question be now put."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 246; Noes, 49. (Division List No. 37.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Andrew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allen, Chas. P. (Glouc., Stroud
Allhusen, Augustus Henry E.
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bailey, James (Walworth)

Bain, Col. James Robert
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds
Balfour, Maj. K R (Christchurch
Banbury, Frederick George
Bartley, George C. T.
Bathurst, Hn. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol
Beach, Rt. Hn. W. W. B (Hants.
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Arthur
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Brand, Hon. Arthur G.
Brassey, Albert
Brigg, John
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. Sir John
Brookfield, Col. Montagu
Brown, George M. (Edinburgh
Bull, William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.

Caldwell, James
Carlile, William Walter
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.
Cawley, Frederick
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
Cook, Frederick Lucas
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Craig, Robert Hunter
Cranborne, Viscount
Cubitt, Hon. Henry

Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Dewar, T. R. (T'r H'mlets, S Geo.
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dimsdale, Sir Joseph Cockfield
Dorington, Sir John Edward
Douglas, Rt. Hn. A. Akers-
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin

Elibank, Master of
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas

Faber, George Denison
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt Hn Sir J. (Manc'r.
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Fuller, J. M. F.
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City of Lon.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin & Nairn
Gordon, Maj Evans-(T'r H'ml'ts
Gore, Hon. F. S. Ormsby-
Gorst, Rt. Hon Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Green, Walford D. (Wednesb'y.
Greene, W. Raymond-(Cambs.
Groves, James Grimble
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G. (Mid'x
Hamilton, Marq. of (L'd'nderry
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harris, F. Leverton (Tynem'th.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayne, Rt. Hn. Charles Seale-
Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanley
Heath, James (Staffords. N. W.
Helder, Augustus
Henderson, Alexander
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (Bristol, E.)
Holland, William Henry
Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside
Hoult, Joseph
Hutton, John (Yorks. N. R.)
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)

Joicey, Sir James
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.
Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (Denbigh)
Keswick, William
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Kitson, Sir James
Knowles, Lees
Lambert, George
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lawrence, William F.
Lawson, John Grant
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lecky, Rt. Hn. William Edw. H
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leighton, Stanley
Leveson-Gower, Fred. N.S.
Levy, Maurice
Lockwood, Lt-Col. A. R.
Long, Rt. Hn Walter (Bristol, S.
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth
Macdona, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpoool)
M'Calmont, Col. J. (Antrim, E.)
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Markham, Arthur Basil
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfriessh.
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Milner, Rt. Hn. Sir Frederick G.
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
More, Robt Jasper (Shropshire)
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
Murray, Rt Hn A Graham (Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Partington, Oswald
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Pilkington, Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Rea, Russell
Reckitt, Harold James
Reed, Sir Edw. James (Cardiff)
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Rentoul, James Alexander
Renwick, George
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridley, Hn. M. W. (Stalybridge
Ridley, S. Forde (Bethnal Green
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Round, James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, John
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Sandys, Lieut.-Col. Thos Myles
Seton-Karr, Henry
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, H C (North'mb Tyneside
Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stock, James Henry
Stroyan, John
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Uni.
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
Thomas, F. Freeman-(Hastings
Thomson, F. W. (York, W.R.)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Wm. E. Murray
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Tufnell, Col. Edward
Valentia, Viscount
Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E.
Warner, Thomas C. T.
Wason, J. Cathcart (Orkney)
Webb, Col. William George
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whiteley, H. (Ashton-und.-L.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wills, Sir Frederick
Wilson, A. S. (York, E. R.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh., N.)
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N. E.
Ambrose, Robert
Boland, John
Boyle, James
Burke, E. Haviland-
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Carvill, Patrick Geo. Hamilton
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cullinan, J.
Daly, James
Delany, William
Dillon, John
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Field, William
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Gilhooly, James
Hammond, John
Hayden, John Patrick
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Patrick James
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Govern, T.
Mooney, John J.
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Col John P. (Galway, N.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary, Mid).
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Sullivan, Donal
Tully, Jasper
White, Patrick (Meath, North

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Captain Donelan and Mr. Patrick O'Brien.

It being after midnight, the Chairman left the chair to make his report to the House.

Resolutions to be reported to-morrow.

Committee to sit again to-morrow.

Adjourned at twenty-five minutes before One of the clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Tuesday, 5*th March*, 1901.

Several Lords took the Oath.

ADDRESS.

The King's Answer to the Address of the 25th of January last reported, and Address and Answer to be printed and published.

MESSAGE FROM THE KING.

Delivered by the LORD CHANCELLOR, and read as follows:—

"EDWARD REX.

"His Majesty, being desirous of making competent provision for the honourable support and maintenance of His son the Duke of Cornwall and York, His daughter-in-law the Duchess of Cornwall and York, and His daughters the Princess Louise Duchess of Fife, the Princess Victoria, and Princess Charles of Denmark, and being further desirous that similar provision should be made for Her Majesty the Queen in the event of her surviving him, and for the Duchess of Cornwall and York in the event of her surviving the Duke of Cornwall and York, relies on the attachment of the House of Lords to concur in the adoption of such measures as may be suitable to the occasion."

Ordered, That the said Message be taken into consideration on Thursday next.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with:—

Elland Gas [H.L.].
Albion Steam Coal Company [H.L.].

The same were ordered to lie on the Table.

RHYMNEY AND ABER VALLEYS GAS AND WATER BILL [H.L.].

The CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES informed the House that the promoters do not intend to proceed further with the Bill. Ordered that the Bill be not further proceeded with.

AIRE AND CALDER NAVIGATION BILL [H.L.].

BATH GAS LIGHT AND COKE BILL [H.L.].

CENTRAL LONDON RAILWAY BILL [H.L.].

CHESTER GAS BILL [H.L.].

CITY AND BRIXTON RAILWAY BILL [H.L.].

CITY AND SOUTH LONDON RAILWAY BILL [H.L.].

LLANELLY AND MYNYDD MAWR RAILWAY BILL [H.L.].

LONDON, BRIGHTON, AND SOUTH COAST RAILWAY BILL [H.L.].

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE AND GATESHEAD GAS BILL [H.L.].

NEWPORT (ISLE OF WIGHT) GAS BILL [H.L.].

NEW SWINDON GAS BILL [H.L.].

SHREWSBURY GAS BILL [H.L.].

SOUTH EASTERN AND LONDON, CHATHAM, AND DOVER RAILWAYS BILL [H.L.].

SOUTH ESSEX WATER BILL [H.L.].

Read 2^a.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TELEGRAPH MONEY ORDERS (SWEDEN).

Additional Articles to the Convention of the 7th and 12th of September, 1881, relative to the exchange of money orders between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and the Kingdom of Sweden, dated 1st to 8th September, 1900.

ROYAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND.

Annual Report for the year 1900.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

SUPERANNUATION.

Treasury Minute, dated 21st February, 1901, granting a retired allowance to Mr. W. H. F. Crookshenk, Second Division Clerk, Money Order Office, General Post Office, under Section 2 of the Act. Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

BRIDLINGTON PIERS AND HARBOUR.

Abstract of the general annual account for the year ended 26th July, 1900. Delivered (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

PRISONS (SCOTLAND) BILL [H.L.].

A Bill to amend the law relating to Prisons in Scotland and for other purposes connected therewith—was presented by The Lord Balfour; read 1^a; and to be printed. (No. 15.)

COMMITTEE OF SELECTION FOR STANDING COMMITTEES.

Report from, That the Committee have added The Lord Clifford of Chudleigh to the Standing Committee; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

STANDING COMMITTEE.

Report from the Committee of Chairmen of the Standing Committee, that they have appointed the Viscount Cross Chairman of the Standing Committee; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

WAR OFFICE ADMINISTRATION—DUTIES OF COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

Order of the Day for resuming the debate on the present system of military administration at the War Office, read.

Debate resumed:—

*THE EARL OF NORTHBROOK: My Lords, I think your Lordships will agree with me that our thanks are due to the noble Duke for bringing this question before the House. No question can be more important than that of the Regulations under which the Army is administered, and I am sure no one can complain of the manner in which the noble Duke introduced the subject to your Lordships. I congratulate the noble and gallant Lord opposite—the Under Secretary for War—who replied to him, upon the very effective way in which he showed the knowledge which he has obtained of the Department during the very short time he has been at the War Office.

With regard to the speech of the noble and gallant Viscount the late Commander-in-Chief, I venture to express the opinion that, holding as Viscount Wolseley does that the Regulations under which the Army is now administered are bad and should be altered, it was the noble and gallant Viscount's duty, as a Member of your Lordships' House, to express that opinion on the termination of his service as Commander-in-Chief of the Army. I do not think it would have been possible for any man to have expressed that opinion in more courteous terms, with more studied moderation, or with more entire absence of any personal allusion to the late Secretary of State for War. Before coming to the question which has been brought forward by the noble and gallant Viscount, I must allude for a few minutes to the latter part of the speech of the noble Marquess the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs last night. I am bound to say that the noble Marquess appeared to me to have gone out of his way, without any excuse that I could discover, to make a personal attack upon the noble Viscount. What on earth the noble Viscount's advice to the Secretary of State on the subject of the South African War can have to do with the question whether the Order in Council for the administration of the Army is a right or a wrong one passes my comprehension.

I have been some time in politics, but I have no recollection of any instance having occurred where a Minister of the Crown has come down to Parliament, without notice given and without any assignable ground, and related confidential communications which have passed between himself and one of the officers with whom he was associated upon subjects connected with the public service. If this practice is to be continued I entertain grave apprehensions as to its effects. We may have the head of one of these departments coming to Parliament and saying, "My military or my naval adviser said so and so." Or we may have the military or naval adviser saying in Parliament, "I gave such and such advice to the Secretary of State, but he did not take it." And if he is not in Parliament you may have him writing to the newspapers on the subject. I consider that the course taken by the noble Marquess was exceedingly ill-advised. It is impossible for your Lordships to express an opinion upon the statements of the noble Marquess, because we have not the Papers before us. The noble Marquess read a part of a confidential Memorandum written by the noble Viscount, and, in answer to a question I put to him, promised to produce that document and lay it on the Table of your Lordships' House. I hope that when the noble Marquess does lay that Paper on the Table he will explain all the circumstances under which it was written. The noble Marquess having taken the course of relating his view of certain advice given by Lord Wolseley, it will be perfectly justifiable for Lord Wolseley, if he thinks it desirable to do so, to move for all the Papers connected with that advice, so that the whole of the circumstances shall be before us.

The attack made by the noble Marquess upon Lord Wolseley has, however, nothing whatever to do with the question before your Lordships. The question is, Is the Order in Council of 1895 a good order or a bad one? Is it one which enables the Commander-in-Chief to occupy his proper position in the War Office? Is it a businesslike and practical Order in Council? Lord Wolseley's opinion, after five years experience of this Order, is that it is not; the noble Marquess thinks it is. For my part, I think it is much more likely that the noble Viscount, with his long experience of the Army and of the War Office, is right than that the noble Marquess is right. However that may be, let us see what this Order really is. A statement is given of the duties of the different departments of the War Office—the department of the Commander-in-Chief, the department of the Adjutant General, the department of the Quartermaster General, the department of the Inspector General of Fortifications, and the department of the Director General of Ordnance. The Order in Council makes the heads of each of these great departments of the War Office responsible to the Secretary of State for the conduct of the business of their respective departments. That is the substance of the Order. But over and above this there is a kind of order that the Commander-in-Chief shall exercise a general supervision, and be the principal adviser of the Secretary of State upon all military questions. The question which the noble and gallant Viscount asked was, How can the responsibility of these different officers to the Secretary of State harmonise with the general supervision of the Commander-in-Chief? It seems to me an impossibility. What does general supervision mean? The noble Marquess did not define it. The Under Secretary for War drew a distinction between general supervision and control; but I want to know who is responsible for these different departments. Is the Commander-in-Chief responsible, or are the heads of the respective departments responsible? The noble Marquess stated, in the course of his speech last night, that—

> "If the noble Viscount the late Commander-in-Chief had paid more attention to the duties assigned to him by the Order in Council, he might have enabled us to turn to better account the large number of Auxiliary forces that we have in this country, and which I am constrained to say have been not a little neglected during the last five years."

Here is a Minister who has just left the Office of Secretary of State for War asserting in this House that he has neglected the Auxiliary forces of the country. He was the responsible Minister. Why has he neglected them, and why, having done so, does he put the responsibility on the noble and gallant Viscount the late Commander-in-Chief? If you turn to the Order in Council your Lordships will see that the duty of dealing with these forces is not put under the department of the Commander-in-Chief, but under that of the Adjutant General, who is responsible to the noble Marquess. How the noble Marquess can try to throw a slur on the late Commander-in-Chief for having neglected the Auxiliary forces, when he has put the duty of looking after those forces under a department responsible to the Secretary of State and not to the Commander-in-Chief, passes my comprehension. This shows how impossible it is to put responsibility on anyone in respect of this Order in Council. If the noble Marquess misinterprets his own Order, and says that the Commander-in-Chief is responsible for the Auxiliary forces, then I really do not quite know how we stand.

The noble and gallant Viscount said he found that this general power of super vision, which he could or could not exercise over the different departments, the heads of which were responsible not to him but to the Secretary of State, rendered his duties almost impossible; and it was only, he said, owing to the ability and public spirit of the officers at the War Office who were responsible for sending out supplies and troops that we had not been placed in a considerably worse position than we have been in regard to the war in South Africa. I well believe that. I have always borne testimony to the way in which those officers have worked, and the noble Marquess himself deserves his share of the credit in the matter. But that does not prove the organisation of the War Office to be right. The Adjutant General and the Quartermaster General perform functions which are essentially connected with the office of Commander-in-Chief. The duties of looking after discipline, training, instruction, and military education are most important, yet your Lordships will see that they are, under the Order in Council, separated from the office of Commander-in-Chief and given to another officer. Is it possible that an Army can be managed in that way? How is it possible for the Commander-in-Chief to exercise his duties properly if this most important work is taken out of his hands and given to another officer whom he may, if he pleases, generally supervise, whatever that means, but who is responsible to the Secretary of State and may communicate with the Secretary of State without the knowledge of the Commander-in-Chief whenever it suits him to do so? I say it is an impossible system. The noble Marquess has filled the same office as I had the honour to occupy in India. Does he suppose for one moment that you could have such an organisation in connection with the Indian Army, the Commander-in-Chief exercising a general supervision over the Adjutant General and the Quartermaster General, but both of those officers being responsible to the Viceroy for their particular departments? It is a plan which seems to me to carry on the face of it the stamp of failure, and it is to the credit of the officials in the War Office that it has lasted so well up to now.

The noble Marquess said that this was the recommendation of the Hartington Commission, and he paid a very right and proper compliment to the common sense of the noble Duke and his able colleagues; but he did not say that the Commissioners did not agree between themselves. I deny that the Order in Council of 1895, to which the noble and gallant Viscount objects, was recommended by the Hartington Commission. The noble Marquess has no right whatever to bring forward the Report of the Commission in support of his Order. The Report of that Commission, as a matter of fact, recommended the abolition of the office of Commander-in-Chief altogether, and the substitution of a Chief of the Staff with certain other heads of departments responsible to the Secretary of State. I do not say that is a right plan, but it is certainly a workable plan.

The real point is whether the duties connected with the discipline and training of the Army should or should not be separated from the office of Commander-in-Chief. The Hartington Commission recommended that the duties of ensuring uniformity in the discipline, training, and education of the Army at home and abroad, promotions, appointments, selections for command, and so on, should be entrusted to one officer and not to two, as has been done by the Order in Council of the noble Marquess. Therefore I think the noble Marquess has no right whatever to fall back upon the Report of the Commission over which the noble Duke presided in support of his Order in Council of 1895. The noble Marquess, again, attacked in an extraordinary way—I do not know why—the Order in Council passed by one of his predecessors—Mr. Stanhope—in 1888; but in doing so he must have forgotten that he had sitting by his side the noble Marquess the Prime Minister, who, if I am not mistaken, was Prime Minister when Mr. Stanhope was Secretary of State, and was therefore equally responsible with Mr. Stanhope for the Order which the noble Marquess the Foreign Secretary so violently attacked. I think that Order did place too much work on the Commander-in-Chief, but I am by no means certain that it was as bad as the noble Marquess has described it to be.

There is no evidence in the Report of the Hartington Commission which gives the noble Marquess the right to say that the system which existed from 1888 to 1895 was "discreditable and disastrous." If that is so, why was it allowed to remain unaltered for seven years? It may be said that it was not desirable to make any change until after the retirement of H.R.H. the Duke of Cambridge. I think that would be a mere excuse. I had the honour of being in communication with His Royal Highness on many matters connected with the Army. I was in communication with the illustrious Duke in 1870, when the great alterations were made in the Army; and I am satisfied that His Royal Highness would have been perfectly ready to join in any alteration of the Order in Council and in the duties of the Commander-in-Chief which he thought of advantage to the public service.

I do not see why certain modifications could not be made in the Order of Council of 1895 which would put the administration of the War Office on a sound footing. If the Government simply put the Adjutant General and Quartermaster General's work under the Commander-in-Chief the thing would be done. The other departments might remain in the hands of their respective heads, who should be responsible to the Secretary of State. But we should see that all matters connected with the discipline and training of the Army are put under the Commander-in-Chief. There should be no longer any question of general supervision, which cannot be defined and which prevents proper responsibility being put upon anyone. These matters are not very abstruse; they really lie almost in a nutshell. Anyone who reads this Order can see its defects, and it seems to me not altogether out of the question that His Majesty's Government may be able to put this matter straight. I trust that the effect of this discussion will be to remove the anomalies which have been clearly pointed out by the noble and gallant Viscount, and which have been most inadequately replied to by the noble Marquess the late Secretary for War.

*LORD CHELMSFORD: My Lords, the noble Earl has so completely answered all that has been said by the noble Marquess the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs that I have but very little to say. But being one of the oldest military officers in your Lordships' House, I feel that I cannot remain silent when such an important question is being discussed. I confess that I heard with the greatest surprise, and, I may say, with indignation—I am afraid to use a stronger term—the attack which was made yesterday on the noble and gallant Viscount by the noble Marquess. The noble and gallant Viscount began by deprecating the introduction of personalities. He was most impersonal in his speech, and yet the noble Marquess, in spite of that, chose to make charges against him which he knew perfectly well the noble and gallant Viscount could not answer, and in language that certainly does not redound to his credit.

The noble Marquess made a great point of the important duties which under the Order in Council still devolve upon the Commander-in-Chief, but he did not say that the questions of drill, discipline, and the efficiency of the Army are taken out of his hands, and that he is only allowed to retain a sort of general supervision. I will quote short paragraphs from the duties of the Adjutant General and the Quartermaster General and leave it to your Lordships to consider what there remains to the Commander-in-Chief to do.

> "The Adjutant General shall be charged with the discipline, military education and training of the officers, warrant officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the Regular and Reserve Forces and the Militia of the United Kingdom."

Other duties are set out, and the concluding words are—

> "He shall advise the Secretary of State on all questions connected with the duties of his department."

Where, I ask, comes in the Commander-in-Chief to interfere with or supervise or control the Adjutant General? The Adjutant General is absolutely independent of the Commander-in-Chief, and it depends upon his good will whether or not he consults the Commander-in-Chief on questions of discipline and drill.

Then I come to the Quartermaster General. He also has very important duties to perform, for which the Commander-in-Chief was always held responsible personally previous to the Order in Council of 1895. The Quartermaster General is charged with supplying the Army with food, forage, and light, with land and water transport, and with remounts, and also with the distribution of the troops. He has also to deal with sanitary questions relating to the Army. All these matters are taken out of the hands of the Commander-in-Chief. The Quartermaster General is absolutely independent of him and need not consult him on any one of those important points. The Order in Council provides that the Quartermaster General shall submit the proposals of the annual estimates for these services, not in consultation with the Commander-in-Chief, but independent of him, to the Secretary of State for War, and shall advise the Secretary of State on all questions connected with the duties of the Department. Of what use is the word "supervision" if the Adjutant General and the Quartermaster General chose not to be loyal to the Commander-in-Chief? Then I come to the Director General of Ordnance. He also has to advise the Secretary of State upon questions relating to patents, inventions and designs.

It is a farce, therefore, to say that under an Order in Council of that sort the Commander-in-Chief is left with any power at all. He is, in fact, made absolutely subordinate, in the command of the Army, to the Adjutant General, to the Quartermaster General, and to the Director General of Ordnance, for these officials need not, except at their own free will and by a feeling of loyalty, consult the Commander-in-Chief on matters relating to their departments. I trust that under the change of administration which has taken place in the War Office the whole of the Order in Council will be repealed.

*THE EARL OF DUNRAVEN: My Lords, I should like to say how much I concur in that which fell from the noble Earl as to the inconvenience likely to arise if attacks such as that made on the noble and gallant Viscount by the noble Marquess the late Secretary of State for War are to become the fashion in Parliament. There can be no question, I think, as the noble Earl has observed, that the noble and gallant Viscount would be justified, if he thought it necessary to vindicate his character, in asking for all the Papers connected with the opinions that he has given to be laid upon the Table of the House. I doubt very much if that would be a convenient precedent to set. But I would like to point out that two very distinct charges were brought by my noble friend the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs against the noble and gallant Viscount on the cross benches.

The noble Marquess said that if the noble and gallant Viscount had paid more attention to that part of the Regulations which requires him to prepare schemes for offensive and defensive operations he would, perhaps, have told the Secretary of State before the South African War that Ladysmith was not a suitable station for Her Majesty's forces to occupy. I do not profess to have any particular knowledge of the general strategy pursued in South Africa, but I have always understood that the main principle was a central advance across the Orange River into what was the Orange Free State, and thence into the Transvaal, and the fact that we had a large force shut up in Ladysmith, and the necessity for relieving that force, interfered seriously with the general scheme of campaign; in fact, that the operation which was subsequently so brilliantly and successfully carried out by the present Commander-in-Chief was the original and main principle of the campaign, but had to be deferred on account of the necessity for relieving Ladysmith. If that be so, the noble Marquess has practically told the House that it was owing to some neglect of duty on the part of the noble and gallant Viscount, the then Commander-in-Chief, that the war has been unnecessarily prolonged, and that many of the disasters we have had to deplore occurred.

The noble Marquess also said that, if the noble and gallant Viscount had paid rather more attention to his duties, he might have warned the Government that it would take more than one army corps to subjugate the two South African Republics. That, again, is a most serious allegation. But, my Lords, I should like to know, was the opinion of the Commander-in-Chief the only opinion that was taken at the time? Had the Defence Committee of the Cabinet nothing to say about the matter? Did not the despatches of General Butler make a reference to the need for 100,000 men?

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (the MARQUESS of LANSDOWNE): No, no. No such Paper is in existence.

*THE EARL OF DUNRAVEN: If no such thing was stated, then the general public have been for a long time under an erroneous impression.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: A very erroneous impression.

*THE EARL OF DUNRAVEN: I will not pursue that further. But is it to be understood that the opinion of the Commander-in-Chief as to the force required was the only opinion taken at the time, and that, if it had not been for the advice which the noble and gallant Viscount then gave, a larger and more adequate force would have been sent out to South Africa? Those are very serious charges—they amount to charges—to bring against the late Commander-in-Chief. I join sincerely with the noble Earl, Lord Northbrook, in deploring the fact that the debate has not been conducted on the lines which the noble and gallant Viscount laid down, and which he adhered to—namely, that there should be no personalities and that the matter should be dealt with from a purely theoretical point of view.

The noble Marquess laid great stress upon the Report of the Hartington Commission. The noble Earl has already alluded to that. But I should like to point out that out of nine members of the Commission six of them made separate memoranda or statements, and that they differed from each other on very material points. One member of that Commission—a very eminent member—the late Lord Randolph Churchill, issued a very long and able Memorandum, and with your Lordships' permission I would make one or two quotations from it, so far as they are absolutely pertinent to the matter before the House. What Lord Randolph Churchill suggested was a Commander-in-Chief or Captain General of the Army, having, subject to the Government, supreme control over and responsibility for the administration of the Army; and that military training, military experience, and military eminence should be the qualifications for that office. The very opposite of that is what has taken place. Lord Randolph Churchill, in another paragraph, said—

> "The object aimed at is the maximum of efficiency consistent with the amount of expenditure which the taxpayer or his representatives will tolerate. Can any practical amount of efficiency of administration be attained without professional training or knowledge? Can it be attained without direct personal responsibility? Can direct responsibility be reasonably expected without professional control? The answer to these questions, I submit, is obviously in the negative."

I think it is impossible in the few words I shall address to the House to make a stronger case against the present system, and when the noble Marquess justifies the present system as being the recommendation of the Hartington Commission, I think it well that your Lordships should bear in mind the fact that, at all events, the opinion of one very prominent and eminent member of that Commission was diametrically opposed to the system now in force.

THE LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL (The DUKE of DEVONSHIRE): He signed the Report.

*THE EARL OF DUNRAVEN: The question really resolves itself into this: whether professional knowledge is requisite in the person who has supervision and presides over the various departments of the War Office. We heard a great deal last night about the efforts that have been made towards decentralisation; but I do not see that any decentralisation has been obtained. Centralisation remains exactly the same. Everything connected with what I may term the military side of the administration, and everything appertaining to the civilian side, is concentrated in the War Office. It is also centred upon one man. Formerly a great deal of it devolved on the Commander-in-Chief; now the whole of it is centred in the Secretary of State. Where does the decentralisation come in? The only difference is that formerly the work was to a great extent centred on the man having professional knowledge, supposed to be, and probably being, the first soldier in the Empire; whereas now it is centred upon a man who, however capable and able he may be, must of necessity be absolutely ignorant of the work which he has to control.

The departments of the War Office are not watertight compartments independent of each other. Nothing can occur in one of these departments that does not affect the Army as a whole; and surely in such a case there ought to be some co-ordinating brain, somebody whose duty it is to see that what is done in one department does not militate against the Army generally or the other departments. Formerly that duty was exercised by a professional expert, and now it is performed by the Secretary of State, who is not a professional expert. I feel sure that no private business could be conducted for a month successfully on the present system in the War Office. Imagine one of your Lordships being suddenly placed at the head of some great manufacturing undertaking. How would he conduct it? I should say, by acting with the advice of and through the expert general manager; certainly not by independently consulting and giving directions to the foremen of the various departments. Yet that is the system under which the War Office, which deals with such gigantic issues that the largest private undertaking bears no perceptible proportion to it, is managed at the present time. As it is, there is no responsibility whatever.

Not very long ago in this House the noble Marquess, then Secretary of State for War, cited as an instance of the activity of the War Office the fact that he was collecting large reserves of stores, which in his opinion had not been sufficiently maintained for a long time. Just conceive if the professional head came and stated that he had known for a number of years that our military stores were deficient, and that he was going to set to work to supply the deficiency in the middle of a war, what would be said of him? And what can one say when the civilian Secretary of State makes such a statement? No man can expect that the civilian Secretary of State can be really responsible for technical matters of military detail. I remember some time ago the noble Earl who generally sits on the cross benches (Lord Wemyss), with his usual vivacity, saying somebody was responsible, and that that individual ought to be hung. Quite so; but who is the individual? I should be exceedingly sorry if the Foreign Office was to be deprived of the services of the Secretary of State in such a summary manner; while it would be very unfair that the noble and gallant Viscount should meet with such a fate, because, as he has told us, the real responsibility of the Commander-in-Chief practically ceases when he has given his opinion—that is to say, if he is asked for an opinion at all. Lord Randolph Churchill, in his memorandum on the Report of the Hartington Commission, used some very pertinent words on this question of responsibility. Speaking of the military chief, he said—

> "Professional reputation to a soldier is everything next to life itself."

And alluding to the Secretary of State, he said that—

> "Administrative incapacity at the War Office brought little evil consequences to the individual nominally responsible. In the majority of cases he was simply transferred to some other office—to a foreign Embassy, to a Colonial Governorship, or, at the very worst, to the House of Lords."

The noble Duke who introduced this question asked for information. We have not as yet had a great deal of information. After what fell from the Under Secretary of State for War and the Secretary for Foreign Affairs, I suppose we must assume that His Majesty's Government are entirely satisfied with the working of the machinery of the War Office, and that in the main it is as perfect as is humanly possible. That was the gist of the speech of the noble Marquess.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: On the contrary, I said that, after five years experience, I thought it very probable that in some respects the system introduced in 1895 required some modification.

*THE EARL OF DUNRAVEN: Yes: in unimportant details, but I think the noble Marquess will agree with me that he said the machinery worked fairly well, and that it would have worked a great deal better if the Commander-in-Chief had not in some respects neglected his duty and had given it a fair test. Under these circumstances we cannot look for any large reforms. I deeply regret that. In my opinion, you cannot have an efficient army and a good military machine unless it is supervised and superintended by a professional soldier. I quite agree that the Secretary of State must be in a sense the head of the War Office. He is responsible to Parliament, and must be the superior; but, as far as possible, if you want full value for the enormous sums the country is spending, you must have a professional man responsible for the training and efficiency of the Army.

*EARL SPENCER: My Lords, I think I ought to say a few words on the remarkable debate entered upon last night and continued this evening. Your Lordships will all, I am sure, agree with me that we wish, as far as possible, to avoid the personal matters which have been brought into prominence. The noble Marquess went into those at the end of his speech in considerable detail. I quite admit that the noble Marquess was to a certain extent challenged by the noble and gallant Viscount, who, although he did not quote any personal matters, did attack the system, and the system cannot be divorced from the men who originated it and who conduct it. At the same time, I confess I agree with what Lord Northbrook said with regard to the length to which the noble Marquess went in illustrating his views. It seems somewhat a pity and misfortune to actually show the secrets of the War Office during a great crisis in this country. No doubt it is very interesting to the public generally to know these details, but in the interests of administration it is a misfortune that they should be brought forward, for, being brought forward once, they may be demanded another time.

I noticed with pleasure that the noble and gallant Viscount admitted that there must be official responsibility on the Secretary of State, and I think I shall presently show that if the noble and gallant Viscount's views were carried out it would be extremely difficult that full responsibility could be had. The noble Earl who has just spoken also said that the Secretary of State must be in some sense responsible, but the stress he laid on the position of the Commander-in-Chief almost obliterated and neutralised the force of his remarks about the responsibility of the Secretary of State. In the Report of Lord Hartington's Commission some remarkable opinions are quoted—the opinion of the Duke of Wellington that it was "much better that the Secretary of State for War should be the person to regulate that matter than that it should be in the hands of officials connected with the Army," and the opinion of Lord Hardinge that "in a constitutional point of view the Secretary of State for War is the proper person to draw up a Mutiny Bill and the Articles of War. He is bound to stand between the civil subjects and the military."

I should humbly associate myself with the opinions of those distinguished men. But let us see whether the position of the noble and gallant Viscount—for whom I have the highest respect and admiration—is compatible with those views. He instanced a case in which the Commander-in-Chief might differ from the Secretary of State, and he said that such an important fact ought not to be kept in the office, but ought to be made public, so that the country might decide who was right. I have also seen statements that the Commander-in-Chief and the First Naval Lord should publish at the beginning of every year an exact estimate of the number of men and the requirements needed for the Army and Navy. Having had the honour of being First Lord of the Admiralty, I will venture to say that it would be perfectly impossible to carry on the business of the country and to bring forward in a proper way before Parliament the demands of the Services if that principle were allowed. No Cabinet could submit to it, and it would lead to exaggerated demands on the part of the military and naval authorities, put forward in order to get, at all events, some part of them carried out. While saying this, I feel in the strongest possible way the necessity for getting the best expert advice for those civilians who occupy the responsible positions of the Secretary of State for War and the First Lord of the Admiralty. It is essential that they should have at hand the best military and naval opinion. It strikes me, in reading the Order in Council, that it lays this down most decidedly as the duty of the Commander-in-Chief: to give advice to the Secretary of State, as the First Naval Lord gives advice to the First Lord of the Admiralty. I do not understand how my noble and gallant friend can go as far as he does when he says that the present system has robbed the Commander-in-Chief of his chief usefulness, and has virtually handed the command of the Army to a civilian Secretary of State, assisted by subordinates with whom he deals direct. That is a very strong statement, and I cannot conceive how, under the Order in Council, it can be justified. It is the duty of the Commander-in-Chief to give his knowledge and experience to the Secretary of State, and if the Secretary of State does not ask for it, the Commander-in-Chief is bound, under the Order in Council, to offer it, and to leave the responsibility of refusing it to the Secretary of State.

I know very well the importance of this subject. When I was at the Admiralty I had some very difficult questions to face; and I had to meet and face what my noble and gallant friend called the Cerberus at the Treasury. But when I was at the Admiralty, and also when I occupied another position, I found that whenever there was a great necessity actually proved, the Cerberus of the Treasury always gave way, and I always got what I wanted for the services of the country. I had the satisfaction, too, of working in harmony with my naval advisers. I mention this, because I know it may be said—as it has been said in the public press—that the power of the First Sea Lord was shown when I was at the Admiralty by a threat of resignation. I absolutely deny that during any time I was at the Admiralty I had a hint of resignation from any of my Naval Lords. It is most important for the Secretary of State or the First Lord of the Admiralty to keep on good terms with his expert advisers, and not to allow this extreme step of resignation to be resorted to. I have often rather smarted under the statement that when a certain statement was made in the House of Commons during my term of office it was withdrawn under a threat of resignation. It is absolutely untrue. I took full responsibility for putting that statement right, and my colleague in the House of Commons most honourably withdrew what I had shown him was wrong. I quite understand that it might be desirable—and the noble Marquess said so last night—to remodel some of these Orders in Council; but I am bound to say that, on the whole, I think the Orders in Council could, with proper management by the Secretary of State and the Commander-in-Chief, be worked efficiently for the Army to secure that which is so important—the individual responsibility to Parliament of the Secretary of State without in the slightest degree impairing the authority of the Commander-in-Chief or the efficiency of the Army itself.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: My Lords, after what was said by my noble friend the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs last night in reply to the noble Viscount, it is not necessary that I should enter in detail upon the elaborate indictment which was made against the present system of organisation of the War Office. I do not think that it is necessary for me to do more than to take some notice of the charges which have been brought against my noble friend for making a personal attack in reply to the noble Viscount. The noble Viscount has been applauded for confining himself in the statement which he made last night entirely to generalities, and for giving no instances in support of his criticisms of the Order in Council. That is exactly what I think we have to complain of in his speech. These general *a priori* criticisms are of very little value unless they are supported by some instances; and it would have been much more useful if the noble and gallant Viscount had told us in what respects the defects in his powers and responsibilities had in actual practice led to any of the failures which have taken place in the administration of the Army and in the conduct of the war.

My noble friend did not follow the noble and gallant Viscount in this respect. He took a more practical and useful line in pointing out what he considered to be the entire misapprehension under which the noble Viscount suffers as to the powers and duties and functions of the Commander-in-Chief under the present system of organisation. He pointed out not only that that misapprehension appeared in the noble Viscount's speech, but that also in his tenure of office he had to some extent acted upon that misconception. Whether it was that the duties which are still left to the Commander-in-Chief are too onerous to enable him to devote his whole attention to some of the most important parts of his duties, or whether he laboured during his tenure of office under a misapprehension, which we believe was apparent throughout the whole of his speech, as to the scope, importance, and magnitude of these duties, my noble friend was bound to point out that in the conduct of these recent military operations we had not received from the noble Viscount all that assistance which the Order in Council made him, as Commander-in-Chief, responsible for giving to us. I do not see that there was anything in the nature of a personal attack on the noble Viscount. But undoubtedly my noble friend has given to him a challenge which it is perfectly competent for him to take up—not, perhaps, in the course of this debate; but I am sure that the House will readily listen to him whenever he chooses to bring this matter before us again, to reply to that challenge, and to show that my noble friend's criticisms upon his conduct, and upon the advice which he tendered or did not tender to us, were unfounded. That is all I need say as to that. The inquiry which has been suggested, which has been promised by the Government, into the conduct of the war and the operations in South Africa, and which I trust will take place when the war is concluded, will meet the case. All these matters must be fully gone into. Then I am sure that my noble and gallant friend the late Commander-in-Chief will enter into it and that he will be indebted to my noble friend rather than the reverse for having given him an opportunity of showing in what way he thinks that my noble friend has misapprehended or misunderstood his duties.

I should like to say before I sit down a few words on a subject which has naturally been discussed in various quarters in this debate. I refer to the Report of the Commission which sat some few years ago, and over which I had the honour of presiding, and also the action taken on that Report. It certainly cannot be pretended that the recommendations of that Commission have failed. They have not failed, because these recommendations were not accepted in their entirety. There are, no doubt, good reasons why all these recommendations were not accepted in their entirety either by the present or the late Government; but so far as they have been acted upon they have operated in the right direction. I think there can be little doubt of that, and so far as there has been any failure in military administration since the date of the Order in Council in 1895 it is due to the fact that those recommendations have not been adopted so completely as they might have been. It is quite true that the Report of that Commission, which, notwithstanding certain dissents upon various minor points, was signed unanimously by the whole of the Commission, did recommend the abolition of the office of Commander-in-Chief; and I may state how that conclusion was arrived at. We recognised that ultimately the supreme authority over the interests of the Army must be the Minister responsible for the Department; and the question was how that Minister could obtain—how that Minister, who must be, as was admitted by everyone, the actually responsible head of the Army, could be supplied with—the necessary expert advice, expert information with which it was necessary he should be furnished. My Lords, we found that this advice and administrative assistance was supplied under the Order in Council of 1888 nominally by the Commander-in-Chief. We came to the conclusion that the duties under that Order were so vast, exacting, extensive, and onerous that it was absolutely impossible that that responsibility, either for the giving advice or for the administrative conduct of the Army, should be a reality. We therefore proposed to divide the functions of the Commander-in-Chief and bring in military experts. We recognised that the duty of advising the Secretary for War upon important questions of military policy was the first and most important of the functions, and that it should be entrusted, as it is entrusted over every country in Europe, to an officer to be called Chief of the Staff. We proposed, further, to entrust recruiting, discipline, and the training of the Army to an officer whom, for want of a better name, we called the Adjutant General, and we proposed that the actual command of the troops in Great Britain should devolve on another officer to be called the General Officer Commanding the Forces in Great Britain.

The care of transport and fortifications, the charge of artillery, and the manufacture of ordnance we proposed should be placed under other military officers who should be severally responsible to the Secretary of State for War.

As I have already stated, my Lords, those recommendations were not accepted in their entirety, for reasons some of which were good and others, I think, less sound; but those suggestions did not commend themselves generally to the opinion of the public. Some military men thought they were too revolutionary, and that they tended to impair the prerogative of the Sovereign as head of the Army. We gave reasons in the Report why we thought that was not a well-founded argument, but undoubtedly the officers of the Army had become so accustomed to the institution of Commander-in-Chief that there would probably be great apprehension, a want of confidence, and great dissatisfaction if the office of Commander-in-Chief was nominally abolished. The recommendation to establish a Chief of the Staff did not commend itself to others, on the ground that it was inexpedient to establish such a total separation between the consultative and administrative and executive functions. The late Secretary of State for War, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, recorded his view in a somewhat remarkable statement. He said—

> "It is true that in Continental countries there exists such a department as is here described. But those countries differ fundamentally from Great Britain in the constitution of their army and of its government, as well as in the purposes for which it is maintained. They are constantly and necessarily concerned in watching the military condition of their neighbours, in detecting points of weakness and strength, and in planning possible operations in possible wars against them. But in this country there is no room for 'general military policy' in this larger and more ambitious sense of the phrase. We have no designs against our European neighbours. Indian 'military policy' will be settled in India itself, and not in Pall Mall. In any of the smaller troubles into which we may be drawn by the interests of some of our dependencies the plan of campaign must be governed by the particular circumstances, and could be left, I presume and hope, to be determined by the officer appointed to direct operations."

And he added—

> "These difficult questions will be far better dealt with, and sounder advice regarding them will be tendered to the Minister, by the experienced soldiers who are engaged day by day in the active administration of the Army than by an officer or body of officers, however able and distinguished, who sit apart and cogitate on the subject."

In the light of recent events, I think your Lordships will hardly agree that there is no place in our military system for an officer whose duty it shall be to advise upon great military operations. Personally, I have never attached very great importance to the question on whom the duty of advising upon great military questions should be conferred, the Secretary of State or the Commander-in-Chief; but what I do attach very great importance to is that those duties which were described in the Report of the Commission should fall on someone with a due sense of responsibility. The Report stated that the Chief of the Staff should be made responsible for the following duties—

> "To advise the Secretary of State on all matters of general military policy, and all questions as to the strength, distribution, and mobilisation of your Majesty's land forces, and the relative importance of various services put forward by the heads of departments; to collect and co-ordinate all military information; to prepare and revise from time to time a general scheme for the military defence of the Empire, and to examine the Estimates with a view to ensure that they are framed in harmony with that scheme; to prepare plans of action in certain contingencies; to communicate directly with the First Lord of the Admiralty on all matters involving interdepartmental policy; to examine all correspondence with other departments of the State, and to conduct all correspondence with general officers commanding on questions of military policy; to lay before the Secretary of State an annual report stating clearly all the military requirements of the Empire."

Neither the late Government nor the present Government saw its way to the appointment of an officer with purely consultative duties. Those are the duties which have been assigned in the first place to the Commander-in-Chief; but in the lengthy statement of the noble and gallant Viscount he paid no attention whatever to the instructions charging him with those functions, and it appears to me that the noble and gallant Viscount entirely misapprehended the responsibilities which have been placed on him. We felt that it was absolutely impossible that these duties should be adequately performed by a man who was overburdened and overwhelmed by the duty of superintending, and who had the personal responsibility for the charge of the innumerable departments which are concerned in the administration of the Army.

It was not with the intention of lowering the status or diminishing the authority of the Commander-in-Chief that he was relieved of the responsibility of the direct superintendence of the various departments of the War Office, but mainly with the object of giving him the time and the opportunity to discharge those most important duties to which I have referred. The noble and gallant Viscount said yesterday that he might be told that, in spite of the defects of administration which he pointed out, much in connection with the recent campaign had been done with great efficiency. A large force had been mobilised, provided with supplies, and despatched with creditable promptitude to South Africa. But my noble friend said that the result, which he admitted, was not due in any respect to the system under which it had been done, but solely to the individual exertions of the admirable and meritorious officers engaged. Surely that was a statement somewhat begging the question. If the work had been well done, it could not have been well done under a system which was absolutely faulty and defective. No individual exertion on the part of any man—and we most cheerfully acknowledge those exertions were ably and willingly given—could have secured that satisfaction if the system had been so radically wrong as the noble Viscount asks us to believe. The noble Viscount said there was no parallel for such a system as that which has been established by the late Order in Council. I do not know what foundation the noble Viscount has for that statement. I think he said that China was the only country whose military organisation at all resembled ours. I think it would be far more accurate to say that no parallel could be found in any civilised military organisation for that which he regrets.

Take the case of France. You will not find in France any official in the position of Commander-in-Chief charged with responsibility for the whole of the administration of the army which the noble Viscount desires to see established. You have in France a War Minister, who no doubt is, generally speaking, a soldier, but who need not be so. But, whether he is a soldier or not, you have under the War Minister no officer who stands in any way approaching the position of the Commander-in-Chief which the noble Viscount desires to re-establish. In the military organisation of France, which I suppose the noble Viscount admits to be a great military nation, I defy him to point out any official who occupies the position which he would assign in our Army to the Commander-in-Chief. Take the case of Germany. You have there, no doubt, a Commander-in-Chief. Who is that Commander-in-Chief? He is the Emperor himself; and it cannot be alleged that the German Emperor, having the control and conduct, not of the army alone, but of every other department of the Government, stands in the position which the noble Viscount would desire to be occupied by the Commander-in-Chief. In Germany, under the Emperor, there is not one officer, but three officers of equal status and position, who jointly divide the responsibility for the administration of the army—the War Minister-in-Chief, the General Staff and Military Captain, and the Chief of the General Staff. Those three are co-equal, and receive orders direct from the Emperor. They cannot issue orders to one another, and have no personal command over the troops. In addition to these three, between whom the administrative duties of the department are divided, there are a great number of corps commanders owing allegiance to no one except the Emperor himself. I therefore defy the noble Viscount to point to any system of military administration existing in Europe which in the slightest degree corresponds to that to which the noble Viscount invites this House to return.

One word more. The noble Viscount used an analogy which is fundamentally at fault. He said this system which we have adopted was not the system adopted in India, in Ireland, or even in the command of a regiment. He said that the general officer commanding in Ireland or a general officer commanding a division or brigade here was given complete control over his own staff. That analogy is, in my opinion, totally and fundamentally misleading. The duties of these officers differ not only in their magnitude compared with the administration of the whole Army, but altogether in their character. These officers of whom the noble Viscount was speaking are officers responsible solely for the command given to them; they have nothing to do with their food, their clothing, their equipment, their housing, or their arms. The Commander-in-Chief whom the noble Viscount wishes to see re-established would be responsible not only for the discipline and training of the Army, but for all those other requisites which I have enumerated. Therefore I say there is no sort of analogy between the control which we rightly give to officers placed in these positions and the control which the noble Viscount desires to assume over every officer of the War Office concerned in the administration of the Army.

I am far from saying that the present system is the only possible one, or is certainly and absolutely the best. My noble friend behind me (Lord Lansdowne) submitted that the experience of five years will probably show that modifications are required, and that there are different systems to which, if we thought fit, we might revert. It might be possible to divide the administration of the Army between a Commander-in-Chief solely responsible for training and discipline and another officer responsible for the supply and *materiel* of the Army. That is a system which has been tried in this country, and which, probably for sufficient reasons, has been given up. I do not say that certain modifications of that system might not possibly be found better than the system established mainly on the recommendations of the last Royal Commission. But of one thing I am quite certain: that it would be a fatal mistake to return to the system which was condemned unanimously by the late Royal Commission, and endeavour to overwhelm the unfortunate officer placed in the position of Commander-in-Chief with nominal supervision, control, and responsibility over a vast series of departments with the business of which it is absolutely impossible for him to grapple.

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY: My Lords, I have listened with the greatest interest to this debate, for the inception of which I think we should be sincerely indebted to the noble Duke opposite. For my part, I shall make but few remarks, and endeavour to do what I think has not always been the case with other speakers—confine myself to the point really at issue. We had last night from the noble Viscount on the cross benches what I impartially thought was a public-spirited effort to call attention, in the interests of the public, not in his own, to some defects which he had found in the practical working of the present Army system. I hoped that in reply to that we should have heard from the Secretary of State who is responsible for the last five years for the working of that system some arguments which would have countered those adduced by the noble Viscount in his exhaustive speech. In reply, I am sorry to say we had that lamentable and unseemly attack which I think every speaker except the noble Duke on the front bench has qualified with the severest censure—the lamentable and unseemly attack on the personal advice and responsibility of the noble Viscount which, even had it been in place, had no reference whatever to the question at issue.

What reference has it to the relations of the Commander-in-Chief to the Secretary of State whether the Commander-in-Chief thought Ladysmith a good place of arms or not? It was not a question whether the Commander-in-Chief was a good commander-in-chief or not—that you may argue out at any time you may think convenient. The point was whether under the Order in Council of 1895 the relations of the Commander-in-Chief and the Secretary of State were so adjusted as to be a working arrangement; and to impugn the judgment, ability, or industry of the Commander-in-Chief individually has nothing whatever to do with that. I regret very much to make that observation. If, however, the case as laid down by the noble Marquess could have been in any way made more disastrous to the interests of the public service at large it would have been by the suggestion of the noble Duke who has just sat down. He invited the noble Viscount to recriminate. He said we should be only too happy to hear what he has to say in reply, or any charges he has to make.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: That is not what I said. What I said was that it would be more satisfactory and useful, and that I hoped the late Commander-in-Chief would take the opportunity of giving instances of the actual inconvenience or failures which had been the result of the defective organisation of which he complained.

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY: I am within the recollection of the House. The noble Duke may be mistaken in what he said, but he certainly invited the noble Viscount to recriminate. I am sorry I cannot accept that contradiction. But even if it be true, what a position would be occupied by this House, and by this Government, so far as it is responsible to this House, if it were to be turned into a cockpit where the ex-Secretary of State for War and the ex-Commander-in-Chief were to exhaust their personal differences in a personal discussion! But, my Lords, I call on the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to testify himself, out of his own mouth, to the validity of the doctrine which I lay down. He spoke, I think, with admirable irony last night in congratulating the noble Viscount on having freed himself from his self-imposed muzzle. Last year we did not understand that the muzzle was entirely self-imposed. We were very anxious last year to obtain some expert opinion as to the proposals and policy of the noble Marquess, and the answer we got was that it would be indecent and improper if the Commander-in-Chief were to appear in this House and to appear in any way in conflict or at variance with the opinion of the civilian Secretary of State.

My Lords, I think on that painful aspect of the question enough has been said, and I wish, with all my heart, that no cause had been given by the Government for saying anything on the subject. The real point at issue is not whether Lord Wolseley was a good Commander-in-Chief or not, or whether Lord Lansdowne was a good Secretary of State for War or not; it is whether the arrangements under the Order in Council of 1895 have worked well and are calculated to work well. And on that point, I confess I have heard a good many remarks, but very few which seemed to me to touch the point at issue. The only point of the speech of the noble Duke the President of the Council for National Defence—that fantastic body which we are always attempting to grasp, but which always evades us—the only point which was really valuable was the light he threw on the evolution of the Commander-in-Chief. What did he say? He read us out copious passages from his Report. He lingered over them with something of paternal pride; he said—"After all, I got almost everybody to sign it," and he endeavoured to present a picture of concord in connection with that Report which, I am bound to say, is glaringly at variance with the facts, because, when the noble Marquess, in the exercise of his discretion, proposed to abolish the Commander-in-Chief, the other most leading member of the Commission at once responded with a proposal to abolish the Secretary of State for War. But what we really have ascertained from the incidental remarks of my noble friend the noble Duke was this, that he wanted to abolish the Commander-in-Chief. Well, if it be sound and wise, there can be no objection to that course. But he said, "On consideration, it appeared to the late Government and ourselves"—why should he drag in the late Government to shelter behind them in such a matter as this?—"it appeared to the late Government and ourselves that there was some disadvantage in abolishing nominally the office of Commander-in-Chief." And, therefore, what happened was this: the noble Duke, so far as we can gather from his own remarks, with a determination to abolish the office of Commander-in-Chief, kept it nominally in the hierarchical system; and it is from that origin and source, I believe, that all the mistakes and all the friction have arisen.

We are asked by the official vindicators of the system, "What has the Commander-in-Chief to complain of?" The Under Secretary for War, whose manly and breezy speech we listened to with so much pleasure last night, presented an almost ideal picture—a picture that might have been painted by Theocritus—of the pleasures of the life of a Commander-in-Chief. "What has he to complain of? The communication with the Secretary of State is through my room, and I can testify that there is constant communication—too much for my personal comfort. What does he complain of? Every source of information is open to his investigation. Has he any views about discipline? I assure the House that no question affecting discipline is ever settled without consulting the Commander-in-Chief," and so forth. But he did not tell us, and no speaker on the Government side has told us, this: Is there any Commander-in-Chief in Europe, or even in China—to go to the country which appears to fix the attention of the noble and gallant Viscount—is there any Commander-in-Chief in the world to whom the training and the discipline of the army is not entrusted? Is there any independent speaker in this House who will get up and say that there is a Commander-in-Chief in the world to whom the training and discipline of the army is not entrusted? If it be so, I should like to know the character of that army and the quantum of success it has met with in the field.

I venture to differ from what fell from the noble Earl on the front bench here. He read several citations which, I think, were intended to prove that the position of the Commander-in-Chief was an entirely desirable one, and that the relations of the Commander-in-Chief to the Secretary of State under the present warrant were such as they should be. He quoted one illustrious name, a name that will never be quoted in this country without veneration. He quoted the Duke of Wellington; and he said that the Duke of Wellington had said that these functions—my noble friend forgot to say what the functions were—could only be adequately discharged by the Secretary of State. Does my noble friend believe for one moment that the great Duke of Wellington would have accepted the office of Commander-in-Chief as it was held by the noble and gallant Viscount? If he does, he lives in a fool's paradise. There was no Secretary of State at all in the life of the Duke of Wellington. What he was referring to was the financial system of the War Office, which he said would be more properly dealt with by a Financial Secretary for War than by the Commander-in-Chief, who had no relation to that point. I believe the whole mischief of this business has arisen from one of the qualities of our political intellect—which is, when you find that a thing is not working well, to rush at once into the farthest opposite extreme. I do agree with what has fallen from the Minister, that under the scheme of 1888 there was too much centralisation in the position of the Commander-in-Chief. That, at any rate, might have been remedied. What does not seem to me to have been necessary is this: that, starting with that fundamental principle, the reformers, of whom my noble friend the noble Duke was the head, should have rushed to the other extreme and centralised everything in the Secretary of State for War, leaving the Commander-in-Chief as a pale shadow, competent and permitted, if he chose, to give advice on subjects at large.

We have had one or two illustrations of what the position of the Commander-in-Chief is, and I think we must admit that under the system administered by the noble Marquess, and which, I suppose, was founded on the Commission of my noble friend the noble Duke, there has been an attempt to thrust the Commander-in-Chief altogether into the background and substitute the person of the Secretary of State. We had the incident of all the communications directed to commanding officers being sent not to the Commander-in-Chief, but to the Secretary of State. And I confess I find myself in cordial agreement with what has fallen from the noble Viscount upon that point. How is it possible for regimental officers to hold their Commander-in-Chief in that esteem in which he should be held if he is not allowed to send any communication to them except through the channel and person of the Secretary of State?

I do not propose to trespass any longer upon your Lordships' time, because I feel that, as a layman having no experience of the War Office, I have no claim to your attention. But I have the deepest and strongest sense of the gravity of the question at issue. It is not a question of Lord Lansdowne or Lord Wolseley, or of this Government or that Government; it is a question of the businesslike working of our Administration. Now, you have centralised in the Secretary of State the administration of Army Estimates, which have mounted to eighty-eight millions sterling, and of an Army that approaches half a million of men. You have never had such a situation in the history of Great Britain, and I think that in these changed circumstances it does behove the Government to examine once more the system which they founded in 1895, and against which so stringent a series of accusations has been brought by the Commander-in-Chief who has had large experience of them. The noble Marquess last year constantly told us that we were to look to him, and that we must not look beyond him. Let me say frankly that I do not think that is possible. I do not think that in the present situation of the world the vital matters of the defence of the country, of its military organisation, of the administration of this enormous Army and this enormous sum, can be left solely to the personal responsibility of the Secretary of State. I fully admit that the proceeding recommended by the noble and gallant Viscount was a great flaw in his speech. It is quite impossible that when the Secretary of State and the Commander-in-Chief differ they should appeal to the public as to which is right. Where is the public? Who are the public? If you ask me to go into the street to-morrow and find the public I should have the greatest difficulty in doing so. I do not believe the noble Viscount himself has the faintest notion of what the public is. Is it the threepenny press, or the penny press, or the halfpenny press? Is it the press at all? Is it Parliament? Where is it? I think when you come to analyse the word "public" you will see how fruitless is that suggestion. But, on the other hand, I do not believe it is possible to continue the hidebound system of absolute secrecy and of personal responsibility of one individual as it exists at the present moment. I confess I find it very difficult to suggest a remedy; and remedies of this kind should not be proposed by unofficial people or in an offhand manner.

I look with the greatest confidence, honest confidence, from the indications he has given, to the Secretary of State's proposals, which he is to make in so short a time; and I would not venture to anticipate what they may be; but I hope they may be drastic and go to the root of the evil. I believe, however, that in the long run Parliament will insist on knowing more than it knows now. I quite believe that it is impossible that, in the heat of debate and in the publicity of Parliament, there should be elaborate statements made which would reveal all our strength or all our weakness to the public eye. Even with regard to that there has been much exaggeration, because I venture to say that there is no intelligence department of any first-rate Power that does not know a hundred times more of our strength and of our weakness than the British Parliament itself. It is only we, Members of the British Parliament, who are compelled, like ostriches, to bury our heads in the sand. But I have never been able to understand, except on account of the extraordinary innate administrative conservatism of Parliament in this country, why it should not be possible for a Committee of Parliament to meet the Secretary of State and the officials of the War Office and of the Admiralty in secret—for I admit it must be secret—to test to some extent by personal examination what is the real efficiency of our naval and military forces.

I believe that unless you have some such system as that you will never have a real and a safe guarantee that our forces are in the condition they should be. I know that it is urged, and I think the noble Viscount hinted at something of the kind—I speak under correction—that some certificate might be given to the Commander-in-Chief that all things were as they should be in regard to our forces and our stores. That, I think, would be a difficult matter. It would place the Secretary of State at the mercy of the Commander-in-Chief, and when their relations were of such a harmonious character as those which appear to have existed during the past five years I think it would only add to the difficulty of the situation. Moreover, I recollect the case of a Government that was impugned on the very question of the sufficiency of stores, and which, having a certificate of sufficiency from the Commander-in-Chief, was overthrown that very night. Therefore, I do not think the question of a certificate from the Commander-in-Chief would adequately meet the matter. Whether my suggestion of a Committee such as obtains in other countries would meet the point I do not know. I make it in good faith, and I suggest it for the consideration of His Majesty's Government; but I do most strongly feel, and I think the course of the debate has shown, that things at present are not working on a businesslike footing, and that the sooner they are put on such a footing the better it will be for the Government and the country.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND LORD PRIVY SEAL (The Marquess of SALISBURY): My Lords, I am in the same position as the noble Earl who has just sat down in having no right from a professional or administrative experience to take part in this debate. Therefore I will only say a few words to correct a misapprehension into which I think the noble Earl fell with respect to the real character of the controversy between the noble and gallant Viscount and my noble friend. The gist of the noble Viscount's complaint was that his functions, offices, and attributes were insufficient. The answer to him was to read those functions, and at the same time to point out to him that we had always felt that he had shown that he did not fully appreciate the spirit and multiplicity of the duties and responsibilities with which he was entrusted. It was in reference to that circumstance that my noble friend behind me referred to one or two points on which he thought the noble Viscount had thrust aside matters which really belonged to him, and to which if he had given more adequate attention it would have been better for the public service; but that there was any intention of making an attack on the noble and gallant Viscount I think nobody, except the noble Earl who has just sat down, seriously believes.

My Lords, the difficulty of being plunged into technical and professional matters of this kind must be very keenly felt by any civilian Member of the House who attempts to take part in the debate. To me it has always seemed very strange that things which appear evidently to the professional Member of very small importance appear to me to be of considerable importance. On the other hand, things which they elevate into great magnitude do not strike the civilian mind as being of the same importance. What is the dispute which, as far as we can see, is now raging between the *régime* of 1888 and the *régime* of 1895? It is admitted on all hands that the Secretary of State must be supreme. On the other hand, it is admitted on all hands that the Commander-in-Chief must know everything, see every Paper, and be consulted in all matters of importance. The only difference is this: that under the *regime* of 1888 the Adjutant General, if he has a scheme, takes it direct to the Commander-in-Chief, who sends it on to the Secretary of State; whereas under the *regime* of 1895 the Adjutant General goes first to the Secretary of State, who sends the proposal on to the Commander-in-Chief. I must say that I think this debate has very much exaggerated the importance of the issue, and that there must be something else, something behind, which can have induced such able and eminent men to devote their minds so exclusively to this one point; and I think we saw it in the conclusion of the speech of the noble and gallant Viscount.

It is said of a certain class of correspondent that the important observation always comes at the end. I think that applies to the speech of the noble and gallant Viscount. He told us, not as one of the main points on which he was insisting, but as something which occurred to him at the end, and which ought to be mentioned before he sat down, what was his solution of any difficulties that might arise if the Commander-in-Chief and the Secretary of State were not of the same mind. I think he puzzled the House. He said we were to take the people into our confidence, and to tell the press what we thought, and then the question at issue was to be discussed openly. How you were to decide which party was to be victorious I do not know, but the result of the battle-royal was to determine the particular decision on which the Office was divided. I allude to to this because I think it is the matter which is really at the bottom of our difficulty. I do not think the disputants, especially if they are military disputants, have entirely realised that the Army is under Parliament, and that the Minister who controls the Army does it as one who is responsible to Parliament and represents all the authority which Parliament possesses. Unless you keep that steadily in mind, no doubt you will see many anomalies in our military system and its relations to the civil power. But it is no use comparing your Army with the army of France or of America, or of Germany or of Russia. They all differ in that one point, that the Parliamentary system of governing the Army does not exist among them.

We must accommodate ourselves to the present state of things. Everybody knows historically how it has grown up, and everybody knows that it is intertwined too closely with all the fibres of our Constitution to justify anyone who forms his projects and bases his reasoning on the supposition that this relation can be modified. At the end you must have an Army governed by Parliament, governed by a Minister who is responsible to Parliament, and in any difference of opinion, whatever it may be, the Commander-in-Chief must be the subordinate of the Secretary of State. He may not like that; military men may not like it, but there it is. It is one of the bed-rock circumstances of the situation, something from which you cannot depart; and you must devote your minds to making it work, as it has worked, in the main, hitherto very well, and take care that it produces in the future, as it has produced in the past, results which it would have been impossible to produce in any foreign country. I feel that this debate will be lost upon us unless we take care to guide ourselves by that chief and predominant principle. In speech after speech from military men, men who know the language and spirit of the War Office, it is easy to detect a desire that military problems shall only be solved by military men; but any attempt to take the opinion of the expert above the opinion of the politician must, in view of all the circumstances of our Constitution, inevitably fail. It must not be supposed that in such contests the expert must win. In all these discussions there is an evident and growing desire to shake free of this necessity. I thought I traced it even in the peroration of the noble Earl, although I am sure he is too good and constitutional a statesman to entertain any idea that the existing system can be radically changed. That is where the shoe pinches—that the men who know or who ought to know, namely, the experts, are not the men to decide the dispute in question; but the decision, if it accords with their view at all, must be brought about by the concession of the civilian and the politician.

There is one point with regard to experts that is not sufficiently borne in mind. If the experts were a concentrated body always giving one opinion, no doubt their authority would be very overwhelming. But experts, as we know, often differ in opinion. I remember Sir George Cornewall Lewis laying it down in Parliament that if you could find a distinguished man, an expert in any field of thought, laying down a definite opinion you would always find another man equally eminent laying down an opinion in exactly the opposite direction. Therefore, to tell us that the expert should rule military controversies when they arise is not entirely to set at rest all the difficulties with which we are confronted; and even if the wish of some Members were gratified by putting the decisions of the Commander-in-Chief above those of the Secretary of State you would really only have removed your difficulty by one stage. Because who is the Commander-in-Chief? He may differ from other military men; he may be in profound sympathy with the Government of the day, or he may be the reverse of being in sympathy with the Government of the day—and, considering the mode of his appointment and the circumstances under which he holds office, that is not an impossible contingency. I do not think, therefore, that the supremacy of the Commander-in-Chief of a military nation, even if it were possible to obtain it, would solve all the difficulties by which we are surrounded, and I feel very strongly that we should only lose our way if we attempted to reach a solution without regarding the traditions which our Constitution has handed down.

I quite concur in hoping that the military minds which apply themselves to the reconstitution of these mysterious Orders in Council may remove any defects that may be found. Not entertaining myself that belief in the efficacy of the Orders in Council which evidently penetrates many minds, I do not regard the result as being of vast importance. And if I may sit down with an observation which is such a platitude and such a truism that everybody will agree with it, but which yet seems to me to be invariably neglected, it is that the success of your military system, the victories you are to win, the results of all your efforts, are not obtained by any machine, however theoretically just, however carefully polished, but will be attained, and have been attained in every age of history, simply by the strength and brilliancy and vigour of the men you employ.

VISCOUNT **WOLSELEY**: Before the debate closes I am sure your Lordships will allow me to say a very few words of personal explanation in reference to the remarks made yesterday by the Foreign Secretary directly reflecting upon my conduct as Commander-in-Chief. I confess that I was surprised, as well as pained, at the personal tone which the Foreign Secretary gave to the debate. I hope that, in your Lordships' opinion at all events, this was not caused by any personal remarks made by me when expressing my disapproval of the Order in Council of 1895. I intended, as I said, to discuss the present Army system as a system, apart altogether from persons. I am not aware that I deviated from that line in any respect whatsoever. With regard to the reflection made upon me, I will only say that no documents or other evidence of any sort or kind, either to prove or disprove them, are at present in the possession of this House. The noble Marquess has promised to lay on the Table a memorandum by me upon which he commented very severely. I trust that, in justice to me, he will also lay on the Table a full statement of the circumstances under which that document was prepared. It will then be apparent that the memorandum was not a statement voluntarily presented by me to the Prime Minister, as the House may have supposed, but an expression of my opinion drawn up in obedience to directions I received from the Prime Minister himself, and which, as I considered only straightforward and right, I showed to my chief, the present Foreign Minister, before I forwarded it to the Prime Minister. I do not propose now further to enter upon the strictures of the noble Marquess who spoke yesterday, and who found fault with me so severely and so unaccountably at the time. To do so would be foreign to the subject now before the House. I only ask your Lordships to reserve your opinion and judgment, as it is probable that on a future occasion I may call attention to these allegations.

THE UNITED IRISH LEAGUE AND CRIME IN IRELAND—MURDER OF HUGH THOMPSON.

*THE EARL OF **DARTREY**: My Lords, I rise to call attention to the murder of Hugh Thompson, near Enniskillen, in the month of March, 1900, and to ask His Majesty's Government if any person has been, or is likely to be, brought to trial for this crime. This murder is of a class only too well known in Ireland, but in order that your Lordships may be acquainted with the facts, I will mention a few of the circumstances which led up to it. In June, 1898, the tenant of a small farm adjoining the village of Belcoo, about a dozen miles from Enniskillen, was evicted. Shortly afterwards a man who desired to take the farm entered into negotiations with the landlord, but when this became known considerable feeling was excited in the neighbourhood. In the beginning of November he received a threatening letter advising him to have nothing to do with the farm, and giving him the significant hint that there was plenty of powder and shot in Ireland. This letter purported to emanate from the Irish National Federation, but was not signed. The man, however, paid no attention to the letter, and took possession of the farm. In the following June a public meeting was held in the village of Belcoo at which he was denounced—not by name, but quite unmistakably—by a speaker who, I believe, was a Member of Parliament. He was afterwards severely boycotted. Nobody would buy from him and nobody would sell to him, but he eventually succeeded in finding a man who did a few odd jobs for him, sold a few cattle for him, and so on. At the end of October two of his haystacks were found to be on fire. The alarm was given, but nobody from the village would attempt to extinguish the flames. Legal proceedings followed, and the county court judge awarded him £60 compensation. The decision was appealed against, and the case went to the Enniskillen assizes. It did not come on during the first sitting of the Court, and the tenant of the farm returned in the evening to Belcoo, accompanied by Hugh Thompson, who was his principal witness. From Belcoo Thompson started to walk home, a distance of three miles, but was murdered within a mile or so of the village. The next day, when the case came on, the judge used the following language—

> "The boycotting took place at the instance of a body calling itself the United Irish League. How has it culminated? One of the witnesses in this case has been brutally, atrociously, and cowardly murdered on his way home."

Four months later, in his address to the grand jury at Cork, where another case of murder was coming before him, the judge alluded to this Enniskillen murder, and said—

> "At the last spring assizes I had a case before me in which a threatening letter to the tenent of an evicted farm was succeeded by a meeting of the United Irish League alongside the farm. Then came the burning of the tenant's hay, and finally, the night before I heard the claim for compensation, the principal witness was brutally murdered on his way home."

This crime is attributed by the judge to the influence of the United Irish League, which is, I believe, still flourishing amongst us, its usual methods of intimidation being emphasised by occasional outrage. People are asking themselves rather freely in Ireland how many more murders it will take before His Majesty's Government will see fit to suppress the United Irish League in the same way as its predecessors, the Land League and the National League, were suppressed. I do not know that there is very much difference between them except in name. Unless something is done to put a stop to these outrages there will be an inducement to well-disposed persons to obey the laws of the United Irish League instead of the laws of the land.

The Earl of DENBIGH: My Lords, I regret to say that the account which has been given by the noble Earl of the singularly brutal murder of this unfortunate man Thompson appears to be only too accurate. I also regret to say that at the present moment there does not seem to be any further information upon which a charge could be preferred with success. Four men have been arrested and charged with the crime; two of them were shortly afterwards discharged, and the other two were remanded from time to time, but were ultimately discharged by the magistrates owing to the absence of sufficient evidence. I can assure the noble Earl that the police are doing their utmost to discover the perpetrators of this crime. Investigation is still being vigorously pursued, but there have been no recent developments calculated to bring the guilty party to justice.

EARLY CLOSING OF SHOPS.

The Lords following were named of the Select Committee:—

D. Marlborough.
M. Salisbury.
E. Stamford.
E. Hardwicke.
E. Romney.
E. Verulam.
L. Bp. Winchester.
L. Brassey.
L. Avebury.

The Committee to meet on Friday next at a quarter before Four o'clock, and to appoint their own chairman.

House adjourned at five minutes past Seven of the clock to Thursday next, half-past Ten of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Tuesday, 5th March, 1901.

Several other Members took and subscribed the Oath.

KING'S SPEECH (ANSWER TO ADDRESS).

The Comptroller of the Household reported His Majesty's Answer to the Address, as followeth:—

> "I have received with great satisfaction the loyal and dutiful expression of your thanks for the Speech with which I opened the present Session of Parliament."

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

LONDON WATER (PURCHASE) BILL.

Order for Second Reading read.

MR. CALDWELL (Lanarkshire, Mid) proposed to take the Second Reading on the 25th instant.

SIR F. DIXON-HARTLAND (Middlesex, Uxbridge) protested against a date being thus fixed upon without first extending to him, as an opponent, the courtesy of consulting him. He had not been approached in any way.

*MR. SPEAKER: If the hon. Baronet objects, the matter stands over until tomorrow, and then he will have an opportunity of consulting the promoters.

MR. JOHN BURNS (Battersea) said the Local Government Board, the London water companies, and other interests concerned were all agreed that 25th March would be the most convenient day,

MR. CALDWELL said it was impossible for the promoters to know every opponent.

SIR F. DIXON-HARTLAND: But I have given written notice of opposition.

MR. JOHN BURNS: The hon. Member for West Marylebone agreed with the members of the London County Council that 25th March would be a suitable day.

SIR F. DIXON-HARTLAND: Very well; I will offer no objection then.

Debate adjourned accordingly.

PRIVATE BILLS (STANDING ORDER 62 COMPLIED WITH).

MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order No. 62 has been complied with, viz.:—

Burgess Hill Water Bill.

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time.

FAIRFORD AND CIRENCESTER RAILWAY BILL.

MOND GAS BILL.

Read a second time, and committed.

PETITIONS.

CHURCH DISCIPLINE.

Petition from East Dulwich, for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (HIGHER GRADE AND EVENING CONTINUATION SCHOOLS).

Petitions for alteration of Law, from Derby; New Mills; Blackburn; Fenny Stratford; Shepley; Thornton in Craven; Steeton with Eastburn; Sutton in Keighley; Walmersley and Ramsbottom; Acton; and Dewsbury; to lie upon the Table.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (SCOTCH CODE).

Petition from Leith, for alteration; to lie upon the Table,

OFFICERS OF THE INDIAN STAFF CORPS.

Six hundred and fourteen Petitions from Officers of the Indian Staff Corps, for redress of grievances; to lie upon the Table.

POOR LAW OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1896.

Petitions for alteration of Law, from Epsom; Ashton-in-Makerfield; and Acton; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY BILL.

Petition from Little Heath, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Govan; Aberdeen; Windermere; Glasgow; Newcastle on-Tyne; and Kilmalcolm; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Three Petitions from Gourock, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

BANKRUPTCY (IRELAND).

Return [presented 6th December, 1900] to be printed. [No. 75.]

POST OFFICE (TELEGRAPH MONEY ORDERS).

Copy presented, of Additional Articles to the Convention of the 7th, 12th September, 1881, relative to the exchange of Money Orders between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and the Kingdom of Sweden, dated 1st to 8th September, 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1887.

Copy presented, of Treasury Minute, dated 21st February, 1901, granting a retired allowance to Mr. W. H. F. Crockshank, a Second Division Clerk, Money Order Office, General Post Office, under the Act [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

NAVY (DOCKYARD EXPENSE ACCOUNTS, 1899-1900).

Annual Accounts presented, for 1899-1900, of Shipbuilding and Dockyard Transactions, etc., with Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 76.]

ROYAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND.

Copy presented, of Nineteenth Report of the Royal University of Ireland, being for the year 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

PAPERS LAID UPON THE TABLE BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE.

1. Controverted Elections, Further Return.—Copy of Minutes of Evidence and Judgment in the Borough of Islington (West Division) Election Trial [ordered 22nd February; *Mr. Attorney General*].

2. Bridlington Piers and Harbour.—Copy of Abstract of the General Annual Account for the year ending 26th July, 1900 [by Act].

UNFUNDED DEBT.

Return ordered, "of the amount of the Unfunded Debt on the 27th day of February, 1901, showing upon what terms and for what period it has been raised."—(*Sir Edgar Vincent.*)

CONTROVERTED ELECTIONS.

WEST ISLINGTON ELECTION PETITION.

MR. SPEAKER informed the House that he had received from the Judges appointed to try the several Election Petitions the following Certificate and Report relating to the West Division of the Borough of Islington:—

The Election Petition for the West Division of the Borough of Islington, 1900.

The Parliamentary Elections Act, 1868.

The Corrupt and Illegal Practices Acts, 1854-1895.

To the Right Honourable the Speaker
of the House of Commons.

We, Sir William Rann Kennedy, Knight, and Sir Charles John Darling, Knight, Judges of His Majesty's High Court of Justice, and two of the judges on the rota for the time being for the trial of Election Petitions in England and Wales, Do hereby, in pursuance of the above written Acts, Certify that we duly held a Court at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London, on the 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 21st, and 30th days of January, 1901 (the last day the Court was occupied with the question of costs only), for the trial of the Election Petition for the West Division of the Borough of Islington, between Francis Hastings Medhurst, Petitioner, and Thomas Lough, M.P., and Charles Gasquet, Returning Officer, Respondents.

And, in further pursuance of the said Acts, we report that at the conclusion of the said trial we determined that the said Thomas Lough, the Member whose election was complained of, was duly elected and returned, and We Do Hereby Certify in writing such our determination to you. And we report that no charges were made in the said petition of any corrupt or illegal practices within the meaning of the Corrupt and Illegal Practices Prevention Acts.

Dated this 4th day of March, 1901.

W. R. KENNEDY.
CHARLES DARLING.

QUESTIONS.

SOUTH AFRICA—JAMESON RAID—LIABILITY OF THE BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA COMPANY.

SIR JOHN BRUNNER (Cheshire, Northwich): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he will undertake that the Government shall not formally give up the claim of the late South African Republic against the British South Africa Company in case of a proposal being made for the purchase by the Government of the undertaking of the Company.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir M. HICKS BEACH, Bristol, W.): I can only refer the hon. Member to my answer of yesterday—that this claim has been submitted to the law officers and that until we have received their opinion we can say nothing more.

SIR JOHN BRUNNER: I asked the right hon. Gentleman whether he would, on behalf of the Government, give an undertaking that this claim should not be formally abandoned. I have not understood that he has given me an answer to that question.

SIR M. HICKS BEACH: I am not bound to answer the question as to what the Government might or might not do in a hypothetical case.

EXPENDITURE OF THE COLONIES FOR THEIR CONTINGENTS.

MR. CAUSTON (Southwark, W.): On behalf of the hon. Member for Dundee, I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can state approximately the expenditure incurred by the various colonies for pay of troops, equipment, or otherwise, in connection with the South African war.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, West): I am not in a position to make such a statement at present. I could only obtain it by application to all the colonies, and as the accounts are not yet closed I think the hon. Member will agree with me that it would be premature to make the inquiry.

PRESS PROSECUTIONS IN CAPE COLONY.

MR. PIRIE (Aberdeenshire, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies if he will inform himself and state to the House by whom proceedings have been taken against Mr. Albert Cartwright, editor of the *South African News*, and what these proceedings are; whether he is charged with reprinting in his paper a letter alleging that on a particular occasion Lord Kitchener had given instructions that General De Wet's force when surrounded should not be allowed to surrender; and, if so, whether he is aware that the letter making this charge had already appeared in the *Freeman's Journal* of 15th January, and the part of it conveying this charge in the London *Times* of 16th January.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I received a despatch yesterday from the Governor of the Cape Colony, from which it appears that proceedings were taken by the Attorney General of the Cape Colony on the charge of publishing a defamatory and seditious libel. The answer to the second and third questions is in the affirmative.

MR. H. J. WILSON (Yorkshire, W.R., Holmfirth): Is it proposed to take similar proceedings against the London *Times* and the *Freeman's Journal*?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: That is not a question which should be addressed to me.

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST PLAGUE AT CAPE TOWN.

*SIR WALTER FOSTER (Derbyshire, Ilkeston): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he can state the number of cases of plague that have occurred at Cape Town, according to his latest advices, distinguishing the number of Europeans and the number of natives attacked; whether at the time of the outbreak of the malady the authorities at Cape Town had an adequate supply of Haffkinine (prophylactu vaccine) and of Yersius curative serum for dealing with an outbreak; whether a supply of these materials has since been sent out; and whether he will lay upon the Table any reports received from Dr. Edington or Professor Simpson on the relation of the disease in rats to that in human beings.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: My information is not complete, but, as stated in the telegraphic bulletins which have been supplied by the Cape Government and published, there was a total of twenty cases for the week ending 16th February and twenty-nine cases remaining under treatment at that date: on 23rd February there were twenty-one remaining under treatment. So far as I am aware there has been one European case. As to the second question, I have no information: the matter is one for the responsible Government of the Cape Colony. In reply to the third question, I have not seen these reports, which I understand are being prepared for the information of the Cape Government, and I am not aware that they have been published by that Government.

*SIR WALTER FOSTER: Will the right hon. Gentleman make inquiry as to the second paragraph?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: It is beyond my province to inquire into a matter for which the Cape Government is solely responsible, but if the hon. Gentleman will speak to me privately I will try to get the information he wants.

CONCENTRATION CAMPS—TREATMENT OF BOER WOMEN.

MR. C. P. SCOTT (Lancashire, Leigh): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he can now state whether the wives and children of Boers in the field are placed on precisely the same rations in the concentration camps as the other women and children, or whether a distinction is still maintained; and, in the latter case, whether he will give instructions that all shall be treated alike.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): I have nothing to add to the reply I gave on Friday, the 1st instant, to the hon. Member for the Rushcliffe division of Nottinghamshire.* Lord Kitchener is taking all possible steps to secure the humane treatment of refugees.

MR. C. P. SCOTT: Will the right hon. Gentleman obtain the information?

MR. BRODRICK: I do not think any more information can be obtained. I leave Lord Kitchener a free hand in the matter.

MILITARY COURTS OF INQUIRY.

MR. LAMBERT (Devonshire, South Molton): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the cases of the officers who have been removed from the Army, or their resignations enforced, for failure in South Africa, have been the subject of courts of inquiry; if so, have all such officers been accorded the opportunity of attending and defending themselves.

MR. BRODRICK: Officers who have failed in the field, or otherwise, in South Africa have been removed either on evidence given before courts of inquiry or on the recommendation of their superior officers. In such cases the general officer commanding satisfies himself that the officer's case is fully before him before he makes any recommendation to the War Office.

MR. LAMBERT: May I ask whether, when cases have been under consideration by courts of inquiry, the officers concerned have been allowed to attend.

MR. BRODRICK: As I told the House the other day, when an officer is summoned before a court of inquiry the court is bound to hear him if he desires to be heard. Of course cases might come before courts of inquiry in which are mentioned the names of officers whose attendance may not always be available.

*SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT (Sheffield, Ecclesall): Is it possible for an officer to be condemned and removed as the result of a court of inquiry without having an opportunity of being heard?

MR. BRODRICK: An officer cannot be condemned by a court of inquiry, but circumstances might come before the authorities consequent upon an inquiry on which they might require to be satisfied. An officer's case is fully gone into before a decision is come to.

SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT: Has he an opportunity of defending himself?

MR. COURTENAY WARNER (Staffordshire, Lichfield): Has it ever happened that an officer has been condemned without going before the court of inquiry?

MR. BRODRICK: There may be cases in which an officer's name is mentioned whose attendance it is not possible to ensure.

MR. COURTENAY WARNER: What hon. Members desire to be assured upon is whether an officer can suffer by the finding of a court of inquiry without he himself having been heard.

[No answer was given.]

NEGOTIATIONS WITH GENERAL BOTHA.

MR. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy Burghs): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he has any information to the effect that General Botha has intimated to Lord Kitchener his readiness to surrender on certain specified terms; and, if so, whether there is any prospect of a successful issue of the negotiations.

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* See page 180.

Mr. BRODRICK: I have no statement to make on this subject.

BRITISH SURRENDERS—COURTS-MARTIAL.

Mr. LAMBERT: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he can state what cases of surrender of troops in South Africa have been tried by courts-martial, and when he proposes to make the findings and sentences public.

Mr. BRODRICK: The question of the time and manner of the publication of the courts-martial referred to is under consideration.

CIVIL LAWS IN THE TRANSVAAL.

Sir CHARLES DILKE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he can state what body of laws is being enforced in the civil affairs of the Transvaal.

Mr. BRODRICK: The laws now being enforced in the Transvaal are the statute laws of the Transvaal, subject to such alterations as the present abnormal state of the country renders necessary,

TREATMENT OF COLOURED PERSONS IN THE TRANSVAAL.

***Sir CHARLES DILKE** (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, by the Transvaal Pass Law, the rigid enforcement of which was asked for by the Rand Chamber of Mines, lashes at discretion may be inflicted for every second violation of its minute regulations, and whether by a clause introduced into the latest Transvaal Gold Law by the second Volksraad, every coloured workman who is found to be negligent may be punished by lashes not exceeding twenty-five, while coloured includes every Indian or African British subject; and if the attention of the Governor of the Transvaal will be called to such provisions, with a view to the better treatment of coloured persons.

Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN: The penalties referred to in the question are prescribed by the Pass Laws of 1895 and 1896, and by the Gold Laws for many years past. The definition of "coloured" undoubtedly includes British Indian and African coloured subjects. Sir Alfred Milner is already alive to the need for considering the revision of such legislation, and I will call his attention to the special points referred to in the right hon. Member's question.

COMFORTS FOR TROOPS AT THE FRONT.

Mr. RENSHAW (Renfrewshire): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether, in view of the approach of colder weather in South Africa, the Government will give the same facilities as they did last year for the transmission of extra comforts for men on service; and whether any information is available at the War Office which would indicate the sort of extras which would be most acceptable, and the localities in which they are most needed.

Mr. BRODRICK: The same facilities for the transmission of extra comforts will be granted as last year. I will give my hon. friend a copy of the Departmental Memorandum detailing suitable articles for the troops in South Africa. Lord Kitchener, in reply to a telegram which I addressed to him on the subject, says that such extra comforts will be much appreciated, but I have no guidance as to localities.

Mr. FLYNN (Cork, N.): Is it not the fact that many cases of comforts sent last Christmas never reached the unfortunate soldiers?

Mr. BRODRICK: Yes; there was a great congestion of traffic on the railway.

RETURN OF TROOPS.

Mr. PIRIE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War, with reference to the Return of Military Forces in South Africa 1899–1901, where it appears that the number of officers who left South Africa for England, not invalids, was 1,214, and the number of men and non-commissioned officers and men was 11,109, a proportion of 1 to 9, whereas the proportion to the strength of the Regular forces in South Africa on 1st February, 1901, under the heads of the Return, is about 1 to 32, whether he will state the reason of this disproportion of officers returning, not invalids, allowance being made for the staff officers who have returned with their generals; and whether he could state the number of this latter and of the staffs accompanying them.

MR. BRODRICK: The preparation of this Return would entail very considerable labour, which I am not prepared to throw upon the department concerned.

INDIAN RELIEFS.

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can state what steps, if any, are being taken with reference to the reliefs for India upon the close of the war in South Africa, and also whether anything will be done to compensate the 15,000 men now serving in India beyond the term of their engagement.

MR. BRODRICK: Men serving in India who are due for transfer to the Reserve will be replaced by men having four years unexpired colour service from South Africa and home. It is not proposed to compensate soldiers retained with the colours under the Royal Proclamation of 7th October, such retention being part of the liability which they accepted in their engagement.

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF IN IRELAND—H.R.H. THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he can give the date of the appointment of H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught to the position of Commander-in-Chief of the Army in Ireland, and how many days since his appointment has His Royal Highness been at his post.

MR. BRODRICK: His Royal Highness was appointed to the command in Ireland on the 9th January, 1900, and has exercised the command since that date. I am not aware on how many days His Royal Highness has been at his office in Dublin, but in this, as in the commands he has previously held, His Royal Highness has discharged his duties to the complete satisfaction of the Commander-in-Chief.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR: Cannot the right hon. Gentleman give the House the information I asked for as to the number of days he has been at his post in Ireland?

MR. BRODRICK: I cannot give the number of days, nor do I intend to ask for it.

MR. FLYNN: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the Commander-in-Chief in question is never in Ireland?

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order!

SOLDIERS' WIDOWS' PENSIONS.

MR. BARTLEY (Islington, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the sum of £56,000, taken on the War Office Estimates and stated in the memorandum of the Secretary of State for War to be to cover the grant of pensions from 1st April next to the widows and children of non-commissioned officers and men who have died as the result of active operations, is the whole sum contemplated to be granted for that purpose; and whether as stated in Return [Cd. 462] 1901, up to 1st February, 1901, 12,354 have actually been killed or died, and that 28,630 others have been wounded or are still in hospital, and if this sum of £56,000 is to provide for all the widows and orphans thus created as well as any additions that may yet be made to the list before the war is over.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE WAR OFFICE (Lord STANLEY, Lancashire, Westhoughton): The sum referred to was taken as the charge likely to accrue during the year for pensions to widows and children of non-commissioned officers and men who have died. My hon. friend will realise that only a proportion of the army is married and the number of those wounded does not affect the charge, as they are otherwise provided for.

BIRMINGHAM POLICEMEN SERVING IN SOUTH AFRICA—RATE OF PAY.

MR. MANSFIELD (Lincolnshire, Spalding): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been called to the fact that members of the Birmingham Police Force were engaged to go to the front in Africa at 3s. per day, that when they got to the front they were paid 5s. per day, that the Treasury on finding this out ordered the men home, but on their return to this country engaged them to return at 3s. 6d. per day; and whether the cost of transport per man is about £40; and, if so, can he say what was saved by bringing the men home in order to secure a reduction in their pay.

Lord STANLEY: Nothing whatever is known at the War Office or the Treasury of the circumstances named by the hon. Member.

ARMY MEAT AND FORAGE CONTRACTS—PROPOSED IRISH DEPOT.

Mr. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick's): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he has received resolutions direct, and copies of resolutions passed by local authorities in various parts of Ireland, complaining of the importation of foreign meat and forage into a meat-producing and agricultural country; whether the War Office has been asked to provide a depôt for the reception of tenders from Irish manufacturers; and whether it is intended to inquire into those matters, and provide a remedy.

Lord STANLEY: Various resolutions from Ireland in connection with the supply of foreign meat and forage to the troops there have been received at the War Office. As I have already explained to the House, the whole question of the supply of meat to the troops in the United Kingdom is being thoroughly considered.

Captain DONELAN (Cork County, E.): Will the War Office consider the advisability of inserting a clause in future tender forms prohibiting contractors from supplying foreign meat?

[No answer was given.]

YEOMANRY EXERCISE AT HERTFORD.

Mr. M'LAREN (Leicestershire, Bosworth): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been called to the field exercises on Saturday of the Yeomanry and Volunteers near Hertford; whether such exercises are intended as instructional manœuvres, and as such are in any way supervised by the War Office, or any regular military authority; and, whether any reports are made to the War Office on the tactics adopted by the Volunteer commanding officers; and, if so, whether he will communicate such reports to Parliament.

Mr. BRODRICK: Exercises such as those referred to by the hon. Member are not supervised by the War Office and reports concerning them are not received at headquarters. Nor do I think that such centralisation would be desirable, but the whole question of Volunteer and Yeomanry field training is under the Commander-in-Chief's consideration.

SHROPSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY—TIPPERARY RIOTS.

Mr. CULLINAN (Tipperary, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can give an undertaking that the persons suffering losses from the house wreckings and burglaries committed by privates of the Shropshire Light Infantry, in Tipperary, will be compensated by the Army Department and thus save the local ratepayers from being mulcted for those acts.

Lord STANLEY: Any offences by soldiers against life or property are dealt with by the civil power, and it is not proposed to alter the usual procedure.

Mr. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny): Will the Government consider the advisability of sending this regiment out to South Africa, where looting is allowed?

Mr. CULLINAN: Are Militiamen sent to Ireland to be allowed the same latitude as their fellows in South Africa?

COMMITTEE ON WATER-TUBE BOILERS.

Mr. E. J. C. MORTON (Devonport): I beg to ask the Civil Lord of the Admiralty whether the Committee on Water-tube Boilers is about to issue an interim Report; and, if so, when it will be presented to Parliament.

The CIVIL LORD of the ADMIRALTY (Mr. Pretyman, Suffolk, Woodbridge): The Committee have made an interim Report which it is proposed to present to Parliament shortly.

H.M.S. "BRITANNIA"—OUTBREAK OF PNEUMONIA.

Mr. NORMAN (Wolverhampton, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether a second term cadet died at one of the shore establishments of the "Britannia" on the 26th ultimo from complications following upon pneumonia; whether this is the second cadet who has died within eight days from the same cause; whether others are ill; and, if so, how many; whether the hospital is full; whether one of the instructors has died from a similar complaint; and whether he can say what is the cause of so much pulmonary disease upon the "Britannia."

MR. LAMBERT: May I also ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether one of the naval instructors on board the "Britannia" has recently died, and two cadets are seriously ill; whether the remainder of the cadets have been granted three weeks leave; and, what steps the Admiralty are taking to secure for the future the health of officers and cadets.

MR. PRETYMAN: It is true that two cadets and one of the instructors of the "Britannia" have recently died from complications following upon pneumonia, and on Sunday last there were sixteen cadets ill, two seriously. The cause of the large amount of pulmonary disease is the prevailing epidemic of influenza of a severe type. The hospital is by no means full. The cadets have been granted three weeks leave, and the ship will be thoroughly purified and disinfected while the cadets are away.

MR. LAMBERT: Has the hon. Gentleman's attention been drawn to a statement in the press that the "Britannia" is thoroughly rotten and unfit for the cadets?

MR. PRETYMAN: We are building an establishment on shore to replace the "Britannia" as quickly as possible.

DEPTFORD VICTUALLING YARD.

MR. ARTHUR MORTON (Deptford): I beg to ask the Civil Lord of the Admiralty if he will state the number of labourers employed in the Deptford Victualling Yard, and the rates of wages paid, distinguishing the number of men employed at each separate rate.

MR. PRETYMAN: The total number of labourers employed in the Deptford Victualling Yard is 307, with rates of pay ranging from 19s. to 30s. a week. I shall be happy to hand the detailed particulars to the hon. Member if he will speak to me after Questions.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: How many are still employed at 19s.?

MR. PRETYMAN: Nine.

THE INQUIRY AS TO NAVAL WORKS AT GIBRALTAR.

MR. CAUSTON (Southwark, W.): On behalf of the hon. Member for Dundee (Mr. Edmund Robertson), I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if it is intended to communicate to the House the results, whether separate or collective, of the proposed inquiries into questions connected with the naval works at Gibraltar.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): I understand that no Report is to be presented, but if any changes are decided on they will be explained on the Estimate.

INDIAN STAFF CORPS.

SIR SEYMOUR KING (Hull, Central): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether any provision has been made for assisting officers of the Indian Staff Corps who are engaged in the operations in China to meet the extra expenses entailed upon them by having to organise messes at Tientsin and elsewhere, and provide warm clothing for themselves and their servants, and by the higher price of all stores as compared with India; and whether he will represent to the War Office the similarity of the case of these officers with that of their comrades who were engaged in the Chitral and Tirah campaigns and received a special field allowance of 5s. per diem.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Lord G. HAMILTON, Middlesex, Ealing): There was no special field allowance of 5s. a day to Staff Corps officers engaged in the Tirah and Chitral campaigns. As regards China, Staff Corps officers receive Indian rates of pay and allowances in that country, which compare favourably with the English rates paid to British units in the expedition. But General Gaselee was informed on the 10th of January in reply to a question received from him a few days earlier, that if he would submit proposals for reasonable lodging, fuel, and lighting allowances, they would be transmitted to the War Office for consideration.

COOPER'S HILL COLLEGE.

MR. O'MARA (Kilkenny, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India if he can say how long the Board of Visitors took to consider and adopt Colonel

Ottley's suggestions to remodel the studies and dismiss the professors of Cooper's Hill College; and what expert advice did they receive and consider before reporting.

LORD G. HAMILTON: Colonel Ottley's suggestions for the rearrangement of the course of study at Cooper's Hill are dated 13th June, 1900, and the Report of the Board upon them is dated the 24th of the same month. The Visitors who signed the Report are, with scarcely an exception, experts of the highest authority upon the technical questions submitted to them, and they are selected in order that they may advise as experts.

MR. O'MARA: Were the conclusions come to by the Committee at a single sitting?

LORD G. HAMILTON: The Committee had the memoranda some time before them. The Report was a long and exhaustive one, but I cannot say whether its consideration only occupied one sitting.

MR. O'MARA: Was not the meeting to consider the Report called for the 24th, and did not the Committee report the same day?

[No reply was given.]

MR. O'MARA: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India if he can state how many visits the Board of Visitors made to Cooper's Hill College during 1900.

LORD G. HAMILTON: Several visits were paid to Cooper's Hill in 1900 by members of the Board, but I cannot give the exact number.

MR. BARTLEY: Is not a visitors' book kept?

LORD G. HAMILTON: I cannot say.

MR. O'MARA: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he can inform the House who requested Colonel Ottley to prepare a new curriculum of studies and a new time-table for Cooper's Hill College; and what special qualifications did he have for this work.

LORD G. HAMILTON: Colonel Ottley was informed when he became President that the existing system of instruction was not considered to be satisfactory and required remodelling. Colonel Ottley has an unbroken experience of twenty-five years service in India in almost every department of civil engineering, and the special knowledge he thus obtained of the training and capacity of the young engineers working under him from Cooper's Hill pre-eminently qualified him to advise as to the special technical training required for the Public Works Department in India.

MR. O'MARA: Am I to understand that the code of regulations, which provides that the President shall be assisted by the teachers in regulating the course of studies, is not carried out by the present President?

LORD G. HAMILTON: I understand that Colonel Ottley has been in frequent communication with the teachers.

INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES CONFERENCE.

MR. NORMAN: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether His Majesty's Government has the intention of taking any steps towards the reconvention of the International Fisheries Conference of Stockholm.

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Viscount CRANBORNE, Rochester): It is not at present proposed that the conference should reassemble. As the House was informed on the 22nd ultimo in reply to the hon. Member for South Islington, His Majesty's Government had inquired when the Provisional Committee consisting of experts, the meeting of whom had been postponed, would be called together. His Majesty's Government have since been informed that the Provisional Committee will meet at some date in May not yet fixed.

CHINESE TARIFFS.

EARL PERCY (Kensington, S.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether any Report was drawn up by the Commission appointed in 1899 by the Chinese Government to consider the question of the abolition of likin and the substitution of a revised tariff: and whether His Majesty's Government have been furnished with a copy of such Report; and, if so, whether they intend to publish its contents.

*VISCOUNT CRANBORNE: In December, 1899, Her Majesty's Minister reported that an Imperial Decree had been issued appointing two Chinese Commissioners to consider the question of tariff revision in consultation with Sir R. Hart. The decree, however, contained no reference to the abolition of likin. We have not heard that the Commission have made any report.

IRISH TAXATION.

MR. FIELD: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he can state the ratio of direct and indirect taxation in Great Britain and Ireland respectively.

SIR M. HICKS BEACH: I would refer the hon. Member to House of Commons Paper 336 of 1900 (Revenue and Expenditure—England, Scotland, and Ireland), which contains full particulars of the amounts and proportions of the various heads of revenue. I should not like to bind myself to any statement of the precise ratio between direct and indirect taxation in the two countries respectively, because, as I have often explained, the division between them of the proceeds of indirect taxation cannot be considered statistically accurate.

MR. FIELD: But is it not the fact that the ratio of indirect taxation in Ireland is much higher than it is in Great Britain?

SIR. M. HICKS BEACH: That I have no doubt of.

MR. FLYNN: Will the right hon. Gentleman bear that fact in mind in preparing his Budget?

SIR M. HICKS BEACH: I think hon. Members take very good care that we shall not forget it.

POLICE PENSION STATISTICS.

MR. PARKER SMITH (Lanarkshire, Partick): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he can state (1) the total amount of the income of the police pension funds in England and Wales (excluding the metropolis) for the financial year 1898-9; (2) how much of this was derived from stoppages of pay; (3) how much from Exchequer contribution; (4) and how much from other sources; and (5) what was the total expenditure for the same year; and (6) what was the deficiency.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. RITCHIE, Croydon): The figures are respectively:—(1) £362,602 1s. 4d.; (2) £59,777 18s. 3d.; (3) £160,944 14s.; (4) £141,279 9s. 1d.; (5) £370,217 12s. 7d.; (6) £7,615 11s. 3d.

HOUSE PAINTERS AND LEAD POISONING.

MR. COGHILL (Stoke-upon-Trent): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the death of Richard Edwards, a house painter, of 33, Pinnox Street, Tunstall, caused, as a coroner's jury found, by lead poisoning; and whether he proposes to introduce any legislation for the protection of house painters from lead poisoning.

*MR. RITCHIE: I have inquired into the case and find that it does not come within any Acts which I have to administer; and I do not see my way to proposing any such legislation as is suggested.

LONDON SCHOOL BOARD—REHOUSING POLICY.

MR. HAY (Shoreditch, Hoxton): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the fact that the London School Board has acquired houses occupied by persons of the working class in Gopsall Street, New North Road, and has thereby displaced 350 persons of the poorer labouring class; and whether any provision has been made, or is proposed to be made, for the rehousing of the persons displaced.

*MR. RITCHIE: The displacement to which I understand my hon. friend refers took place several years ago. It is included amongst the displacements in respect of which my predecessor placed upon the School Board an obligation to rehouse by a special clause which he secured in a Provisional Order Confirmation Bill in 1899. The question of the amount of accommodation to be provided is the subject of correspondence between my Department and the School Board. I may add that the number of persons mentioned by my hon. friend does not tally with the best estimates at my disposal.

RAILWAY RATES FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE.

Mr. FIELD: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is aware that one ton of potatoes delivered in London (Borough) Market from Germany costs 6s., whilst one ton of potatoes from Bexley, Kent, costs from 9s. to 10s.; whether he will inquire into this preferential treatment to foreign importers; and whether the same ratio is preserved in through rates for foreign goods imported into Ireland.

The PRESIDENT of the BOARD of TRADE (Mr. Gerald Balfour, Leeds, Central): No, Sir; I doubt much the accuracy of the figures quoted by the hon. Member. I should be surprised if the cost of a ton of potatoes were lower than 70s. a ton in the London market whatever their origin. As regards railway rates I have intimated before that the Board of Trade would be happy to deal with any specific complaint if it were laid before them in accordance with Railway and Canal Traffic Act, 1888, but it is not the business of the Department to make any general inquiry.

CARRIAGE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE TO LONDON BY ROAD.

Mr. FIELD: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is aware that a movement is being promoted to have agricultural produce carried by road to London on account of the railway rates now imposed; and whether he will inquire into this matter.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: I have not heard of any new proposal of this kind. I should have thought it was common knowledge that large quantities of agricultural produce are daily brought into London by road. The practice appears to me to involve a healthy form of competition with railways and no inquiry is necessary.

BREACHES OF THE COMPANY LAW.

Sir SEYMOUR KING: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether his attention has been drawn to the cases in which directors of public companies have failed to hold an annual meeting as provided by the articles of association of their companies; whether he is aware that apparantly no penalty attaches to the omission, and the only method left to an aggrieved shareholder is an action at law; and whether he will take some action to prevent these breaches of the law.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: I think my hon. friend correctly states the position of the law and I am not at present prepared to amend it. I should like to say, however, that the Board of Trade put some indirect pressure upon companies by proceeding under Section 27 of the Companies Act, 1862, to enforce compliance with the law as to filing Returns.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL WATER BILL.

Mr. M'LAREN: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether the Government intend to persist in their opposition to the Water Bill of the London County Council.

The PRESIDENT of the LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. Walter Long, Bristol, S.): I see no reason to alter the views which I have already expressed with regard to this matter.

MILK INSPECTION.

Mr. BRIGG (Yorkshire, W.R., Keighley): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board that, as there is a want of uniformity in the existing regulations now in force respecting the sale of milk, he will, on behalf of the Government, bring in as soon as possible a general Bill giving equal powers to all local authorities, obliging them to examine the milk sold within their respective areas, and to take uniform measures to ensure its purity.

Mr. WALTER LONG: I cannot give any pledge on this subject at the present time, but the matter is receiving my consideration.

SECONDARY EDUCATION.

Mr. PYM (Bedford): I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education if he will state what practical steps have been taken since August, 1899, under the Board of Education Act, to organise the inspection of secondary schools or to set on foot a register of teachers under Section 4 (a); and has the recent decision in Regina *v.* Cockerton had any effect on the action of the Board of Education in respect of restraining the teaching of science in higher grade schools; and, if so, of what kind.

THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Sir J. GORST, Cambridge University): The inspection of secondary schools can only take place under the Act on their application; seven have been inspected, eighteen others have been arranged for, and thirty-eight applications are still under consideration. The duty of framing regulations for registration of teachers is entrusted by the Act to the Consultative Committee, who, I understand, have been continuously engaged since their appointment in the performance of this task. The answer to the third question is in the negative.

MR. PYM: How often does the Consultative Committee meet?

SIR J. GORST: Pretty frequently; sometimes twice a week. I cannot say definitely without notice.

IRISH GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

MR. FIELD: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture whether, in view of the fact that £9,000 per annum is granted for the support of the geological survey of England and Wales, and that the respective areas are England and Wales thirty-seven million acres, and Ireland twenty million acres, and seeing that instead of the £5,000 which Ireland should receive every year the average allowance for the past ten years has been under £2,500, this sum will be at once increased and supplemented by the balance due.

SIR J. GORST: No; as the Government survey in Ireland has in the main been completed, whereas in England and Wales it has not, the sum required for England and Wales is necessarily larger than that required for Ireland.

PALACE YARD—LIGHTING ARRANGEMENTS.

SIR HENRY FOWLER (Wolverhampton, E.): I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works whether he can improve the system of lighting the inside of Palace Yard in the same manner as that adopted on the frontages to Parliament Square and Bridge Street—namely, incandescent lamps.

THE FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS (Mr. AKERS DOUGLAS, Kent, St. Augustine's): I should be glad to improve the lighting of Palace Yard, but the introduction of the incandescent system would involve certain alterations, for the cost of which there is no provision in the Estimates. I regret, therefore, that the matter must be postponed.

VENTILATION OF THE DIVISION LOBBIES.

COLONEL WELBY (Taunton): I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works whether he can see his way to placing fan ventilators driven by electricity in the Division lobbies, especially in the portions of them between the Division Clerks' desks and the exits.

MR. AKERS DOUGLAS: I propose to fix two fans as suggested in the Division lobbies, and, if possible, I will carry out the work during the Easter recess.

MEMBERS' ACCOMMODATION.

MR. HARWOOD (Bolton): I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works what increased accommodation has been given to the general body of the Members of this House out of the additional premises made over to the use of this House, and whether some improvement can be made in the Reading, Tea, and Smoking Rooms.

MR. AKERS DOUGLAS: As I stated in answer to a similar inquiry during the discussion on the Supplementary Estimates on Thursday last, the allocation of the vacant rooms on the Terrace front will be referred to a Select Committee, and I will place the reference on the Paper to-night.

POSTAL GOOD CONDUCT STRIPES—CLAIM OF LINESMEN.

MR. PLATT-HIGGINS (Salford, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, will he explain on what grounds unestablished postmen with good characters receive a merit stripe carrying with it an increase of pay, whereas unestablished linesmen and mechanics are refused a similar privilege.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.): The award of good conduct stripes to unestablished postmen who do a full day's work was made on the recommendation of the Tweedmouth Committee. The Committee made no such recommendation in regard to unestablished linesmen and mechanics; but the Postmaster General has directed an inquiry to be made into the question.

WELSH TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESSES.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carnarvon Boroughs): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether there are any Post Office Regulations forbidding the use of a Welsh word as a registered telegraphic address; and, if so, will he state the reasons for such rules.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: There is no regulation directed specially against the Welsh language; but in view of certain practical difficulties the Department follows the regulations of the International Convention relating to code which prescribe words of ten letters drawn from certain languages; and these languages do not include Welsh. As there is no context in abbreviated addresses to help the telegraphists in their transmission it is extremely desirable that the words selected for such addresses should be words which can be telegraphed everywhere without difficulty; but, if the hon. Member knows of any case where inconvenience has been caused by the rejection of a Welsh word, the Postmaster General will be glad to consider whether the word can be accepted for registration without undue risk of error or difficulty in the transmission of the telegrams.

POSTMEN AND THE CENSUS.

DR. MACNAMARA (Camberwell): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether, seeing that it has been the practice on the occasion of the taking of the census in the past to allow postmen and other postal officials to act as enumerators, on the understanding that their postal duties are not neglected, the same privilege will be accorded at the forthcoming census.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: It is the fact that persons in the employment of the Post Office have in past years been allowed to act as enumerators for the census. Such duties are, however, now considered to be incompatible with the ordinary duties of an established servant of the Post Office, and no such established servant can be allowed to act as an enumerator. Persons not established and not performing a full day's duty for the Post Office may act as enumerators, provided that their ordinary work is not interfered with.

RELATIVES ON POSTAL STAFFS.

MR. GODDARD (Ipswich): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, if he will state the practice of the Department in regard to near relatives holding appointments on the same staff; and whether it is customary for exceptions to be made; and, if so, for what reason.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The Department regards it as unsatisfactory that an officer should have to supervise members of his family, and although exceptions have sometimes to be permitted it is not customary to make them. When such an exception is made it would be owing to the absence of any other suitable person in the office.

IRISH WORKHOUSE DIETARY.

MR. DALY (Monaghan, S): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the change made in the diet of the inmates of workhouses in Ireland last year, while imposing 20 to 30 per cent. of an increase in the cost of keeping of each inmate, is not satisfactory to boards of guardians or the inmates; and whether he will leave this question for settlement by the guardians and the medical officer of the workhouse, and not have the fixed rule laid down by the Local Government Board some time since, and which medical officers were directed privately by the Board to have carried out.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover): Recent changes in the diet of inmates of workhouses, made in accordance with the suggestions of the Local Government Board, have not imposed an increase of 30 per cent. in the cost of maintenance. Since the issue of the Board's circular, the cost of maintenance in Irish workhouses has increased from 3s. 2d. per head to 3s. 2¼d. The Board has not laid down any fixed rule to govern the dietary of workhouse inmates beyond the minimum scale prescribed by the Workhouse Rules of 1849. Less than this scale could not be allowed, because it would be insufficient to maintain life. The circular of the 13th November, 1899, to which presumably the hon. Member refers, suggested a revision of the existing dietaries on more varied lines, so far as children are concerned. The workhouse medical officers were not directed privately to have the suggestions carried out. The guardians of many unions have shown unwillingness to incur increased expenditure in this matter, but if the improved dietary has not been satisfactory to the inmates in any instances, the Board believes it must be upon the ground that the improvement has not been sufficient.

Mr. DALY: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the Visiting Committee of the Carrickmacross Workhouse has intimated that it is not satisfied with the new dietary, which is costing the rates of the union several hundred pounds additional ?

ENNISCORTHY ASYLUM LOAN.

Sir THOMAS ESMONDE (Wexford, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can say what is the reason for the delay of the Treasury in advancing the money for the loan to the County Wexford County Council in respect of the works the council had to carry out at Enniscorthy Asylum, and how soon will the balance of the loan be paid to the council, so as to enable them to pay their contractor the sum of money due to him.

Mr. WYNDHAM: On the 14th December last the Wexford County Council applied to the Board of Works for a loan of £1,500 in respect of works at the District Asylum, and on the 20th December the Board asked the Secretary to the Council to furnish certain information on a printed form, a copy of which was enclosed. This information, without which a loan cannot be made, has not yet been supplied to the Board; any delay, therefore, cannot be fairly attributed either to the Board of Works or to the Treasury.

SALARIES OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

Sir THOMAS ESMONDE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in view of the criticisms passed by the Court of Appeal in Ireland on the action of the Local Government Board towards the County Council of Wexford in fixing the salaries of certain existing local officers transferred to the new local authorities created by the Local Government (Ireland) Act, he will, as President of the Local Government Board for Ireland, consider the expediency, before any fixing of salaries by the Local Government Board takes place in future, of holding local inquiries at which the officers and the councils concerned may be heard in open court.

Mr. WYNDHAM: The Board will be happy to hold inquiries in such cases if the councils so desire it; but it is obligatory on the Board under the Local Government Act to charge the entire cost of these inquiries to the county councils. The Board propose before making fresh orders to invite the councils and officers to give their views in writing upon each case, but they will at the same time intimate to the councils that if they would prefer to submit their views at a local inquiry, an inquiry will accordingly be held.

Mr. CULLINAN: It having been decided that the Local Government Board was wrong in this matter, will the authorities not enable the local boards to have inquiries without expense ?

Mr. WYNDHAM: I have explained what the law is.

LAND LOANS IN COUNTY WEXFORD.

Sir THOMAS ESMONDE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that advances under the Land Purchase Acts, 1891-6, in the county of Wexford are suspended owing to the number of holdings purchased in that county; whether this suspension applies to agreements already sanctioned; to cases where the agreements have been lodged but have not yet been sanctioned; and to cases where two or three holdings on estates, where the remainder of the holdings have been sold, remaid unsold; and can he state what steps the Government intend to take to enable the occupiers in county Wexford to purchase their holdings.

Mr. WYNDHAM: Advances under the Land Purchase Acts have been suspended in county Wexford pending the result of inquiries now being made to ascertain whether the limit of advances of guaranteed land stock fixed by the Act of 1891 has been reached in that county. The suspension applies to each class of the cases mentioned in the second paragraph. Pending the result of these inquiries, I am not in a position to make any statement of policy.

IRISH NATIONAL EDUCATION BOARD.

Mr. THOMAS O'DONNELL (Kerry, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he can furnish a Return showing how the members of the present National Education Board in Ireland are appointed, and the age, profession, and date of appointment of the different members.

Mr. WYNDHAM: The Commissioners of National Education are appointed by the Lord Lieutenant pursuant to the Royal Charter of Incorporation. A list of the names of the Commissioners with the dates of their appointments will be found in the last Annual Report of the Board. Their professions and attainments are well known. There are no further materials which could be included in a Return, and I am unable therefore to consent it.

Mr. THOMAS O'DONNELL: Cannot the wishes of the Irish people be consulted in making appointments to this important post?

[No answer was returned.]

IRISH SEALED LOCAL GOVERNMENT ORDERS.

Mr. M'GOVERN (Cavan, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state what steps the Local Government Board are going to take to rectify the errors they have made in issuing sealed orders and circulars in excess of their authority; and will they allow the county councils which they illegally compelled to increase the salaries of their officials to reconsider these salaries.

Mr. WYNDHAM: The Local Government Board has not issued orders in excess of its authority. Its authority is very clearly defined in Section 115 (Subsection 18) of the Local Government Act. The Court of Appeal decided that the preliminary steps taken by the Board to determine the amount in each case were informal, and quashed the orders on that ground. The authority of the Board to determine the increases was not mentioned by the Court. The Board, need I say, is prepared to acquiesce in the decision of the Court of Appeal in respect of every other case in which the orders are brought up on a writ of certiorari. It will make new orders in all such cases, and base its decision in each case upon the lines indicated by the Court of Appeal.

Mr. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.): Will the county councils have liberty to reconsider?

Mr. WYNDHAM: It is not possible to begin *de novo* in cases where an agreement has been arrived at.

Mr. FLAVIN: May I point out——

*Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member must not comment on the answer.

Mr. FLAVIN: I beg to give notice that I will put another question down; yes, and I will ask it, too.

IRISH LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUDITORS.

*Mr. JOHN O'DONNELL (Mayo, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the auditors appointed by the Local Government Board for Ireland are in receipt of an annual salary or other remuneration apart from what they receive from the District Asylum Committees; and, if so, what is the average amount paid to each per year.

Mr. WYNDHAM: The auditors are not in receipt of any salary or remuneration from the District Asylum Committees, or from any other local bodies. Their salaries are paid direct from the Local Government Board Vote, and the Board is required to assess such fees for the audit of the accounts of local bodies as will partly recoup the Treasury for the amount of their salaries, expenses, and superannuations. The present scale of salary is from £400 to £700 per annum by quinquennial increments of £100. An additional annual allowance of £100 is granted to auditors engaged on county audits.

ASYLUM COMMITTEES' ACCOUNTS AUDITS.

MR. JOHN O'DONNELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Asylum Committees throughout Ireland have been compelled by sealed order of the Local Government Board within the past year to pay a sum of £30 for the auditing of the accounts of these bodies, instead of £24 10s. paid annually up to that time; and whether he will take any steps to free the taxpayers from this charge.

MR. WYNDHAM: It is not a fact that the charge for auditing asylum accounts is now, in every case, £30, or that such charge was formerly £24 10s. in every case. The Board is now obliged to audit these accounts half-yearly instead of yearly as formerly, and is under a statutory obligation to recover the cost of such audit. The fees assessed are such as will enable the Board to recoup the Treasury for the additional expense involved by two audits in each year.

LAND PURCHASE IN COUNTY GALWAY.

COLONEL NOLAN (Galway, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the owner of the townland of Madusflynn, parish of Cahirlustraun, barony of Clare, Galway, has entered into negotiations with some of his tenants to sell them their holdings; that these small tenants are willing to buy provided the owner also sells them a grass farm now held by a non-resident grazier who takes in grazing stock, and that they are willing to pay as much as the grazier; whether, in these circumstances, the Land Commission will insist, before advancing money for the purchase of the grass farm, that the whole or part of the grass farm should be divided among the small tenants; and whether, in the many similar cases which exist in Galway and Mayo, some effort will be made in this direction.

MR. WYNDHAM: Agreements between the Rev. Mr. Gabbett and his tenants for the purchase by them of their holdings, which comprise the entire townland mentioned, have been received in the Irish Land Commission, and advances have been provisionally sanctioned in all the cases. The Commissioners have no knowledge of the matters referred to in the first part of the question. In answer to the second and third paragraphs, the Commissioners can only consider applications for advances under the Land Purchase Acts on the joint application of landlords and tenants.

IRISH TEACHERS' RESULT FEES.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland will he explain why Irish teachers, whose schools were examined in October last, have not yet been paid the equivalent for results fees.

MR. WYNDHAM: If the names are supplied of the schools examined in October to which the equivalent for results fees has not yet been paid, inquiry will be made and an explanation given.

SHEEP WORRYING BY DOGS IN IRELAND.

MR. DELANEY (Queen's Co., Ossory): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether there has come under notice of the Irish Executive the widespread losses sustained by sheep owners from the ravages of dogs; and whether the Government will consider the advisability of introducing legislation enabling owners of sheep in Ireland to receive compensation for such losses out of the Irish dog tax fund.

MR. WYNDHAM: The attention of Government has been directed to the losses sustained by sheep owners in consequence of the worrying of their stock by dogs. The police have instructions to render every assistance in tracing the owners of dogs causing such injuries. With regard to the suggestion in the last paragraph, the hon. Member does not appear to be aware that the proceeds of the dog licence duty in Ireland, after the deduction of expenses, are paid over to the local authorities in counties and boroughs in aid of local rates. I do not think these authorities would be willing to apply the money so received by them to the payment of compensation to sheep owners. The manner in which the dog licence duty is distributed in Ireland will be found set forth in Parliamentary Paper No. 212 of last year.

MR. FIELD: Will the right hon. Gentleman instruct the police to look after this matter, in view of the enormous loss sustained by sheep owners?

MR. WYNDHAM: The Royal Irish Constabulary have been instructed to give every assistance in tracing the owners of dogs.

MR. DELANEY: Will the Chancellor of the Exchequer increase the dog licence duty?

[No answer was given.]

ULSTER WINTER ASSIZES.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney General for Ireland if he can explain why the original promise to hold the Ulster winter assizes every fourth year has not been fulfilled; and whether he can now undertake that the winter assizes will be held in Armagh every fourth year.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N.): I am not aware that the promise mentioned was ever made. Having regard to the fact that the selection of the venue for the winter assizes must depend each year on a number of changing circumstances, I do not think it should be made, and I am, therefore, unable to make it on this occasion.

IRISH LAND FINANCE.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney General for Ireland whether, in the 123rd Table of the Appendices to the Report of the Irish Land Commission, the following figures are correct, namely: Amount of Guaranteed Land Stock issued, £269,334; price fixed by Land Judge £285,322; amount paid in cash by the tenant, £15,995; and, if correct, what is the explanation as to the amount paid in cash by the purchasing tenants over and above the amount certified by the Land Commission.

MR. ATKINSON: The explanation asked for is as follows: In some instances the Land Commission is unable to advance the entire price fixed by them because it would exceed the limit of £3,000; or because there is timber or bog on the holding which, though valuable, might be removed by the purchaser and would not therefore remain as a security to the State; or because the buildings, though valuable, are unsuitable to the holding as an agricultural holding: or because, in order to prevent the hearing by the Land Judge on the report being adjourned till the receiver had collected all arrears for rents due, a sum is added to the price in respect of those arrears.

IRISH FRANCISCAN MSS.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury if he can state when the manuscripts of the Irish Franciscans, now being published by the Historical Manuscripts Commission, will be printed and circulated.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The greater and most important part of the Report on the Franciscan Manuscripts is now completed, and the printing of it will be proceeded with at once. Owing to various causes, the completion of the concluding part has been much delayed, but this also is expected to be in the printer's hands within a few weeks. The Report, therefore, will in all probability be ready for presentation during the present Parliamentary session.

CASHEL POSTAL MESSENGER.

MR. CULLINAN: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether his attention has been directed to the dismissal of a postal messenger, named John O'Brien, in Golden sub-district, Cashel district, in the county Tipperary, on a report furnished by the sub-office official without any inquiry; whether he is aware that O'Brien had, a short time before the date of the report, received a good conduct badge and increased pay after twenty years service; whether any part of his duty was neglected on the occasion of the report; and, whether, in compliance with the wishes of the people of the entire district, as expressed in petition, he can see his way to order the reinstatement of O'Brien, or grant an open inquiry into the circumstances of his dismissal.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The case of John O'Brien, late a rural postman between Thomastown and Golden, Cashel, who was dismissed in December last after being for the fourth time reported for intoxication, was the subject of full inquiry and consideration by the Postmaster General before his dismissal was decided upon. It is the fact that in October last his good conduct stripe, of which he had been deprived in 1893 (when he was for the third time reported for intoxication), was restored to him. While he was not absolutely incapable of performing his work on the last occasion on which he was under the influence of drink whilst on duty, the Postmaster General is of opinion that, having regard to his previous record, he could not be allowed to remain in the service. It is not desirable to reinstate him, and it is not proposed to reopen the case.

ROYAL DECLARATION AGAINST ROMAN CATHOLICISM — CORONATION OATH.

COLONEL NOLAN: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention has been drawn to the resolution of the Canadian House of Commons praying for a modification of the Royal Declaration; and whether before he returns any answer other than an unqualified adhesion to the resolution, he will afford the House of Commons an opportunity of considering the Canadian demand.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I have seen press telegrams reporting the passing of the resolution to which the hon. Member refers, but I have received no communication from the Dominion Government on the subject. The latter part of the question should be addressed to the First Lord of the Treasury.

COLONEL NOLAN: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if his attention has been drawn to a resolution of the Tuam Board of Guardians condemnatory of the Oath taken by the Sovereign on the accession; and whether the request of this Board and similar public bodies in Ireland for the modification of the Royal Declaration will be acceded to.

The following questions on the same subject also appeared on the Paper:—

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): To ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether his attention has been called to the resolution against the present form of the King's Accession Oath, passed by an overwhelming majority in the Dominion Parliament at Ottawa; and whether an opportunity will be given the House of Commons of debating and voting upon the same subject.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: To ask the First Lord of the Treasury if his attention has been called to a resolution passed by the Clare Grand Jury calling on Parliament to abolish the present King's Accession Oath as far as it deals with the Roman Catholic religion; whether, on receiving this resolution, the Irish Lord Chief Justice said he was glad it had been passed; and whether the Government will take any steps in the matter.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR: To ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, having regard to the resolution passed by the Parliament of Canada in deprecation of that part of the Coronation Oath which is offensive to the religious feelings of the Catholics of the Empire, he will introduce a Bill to excise from the Oath that part of it which is an insult to His Majesty's Catholic subjects.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: These questions relate to a matter on which I have already given several answers. I have really nothing to add to what I have already stated. My view, as I have already intimated to the House, is that the language in which the Oath referred to is couched is very unfortunate. I am not surprised that the form of the Oath as distinguished from the substance should have given pain to the Roman Catholic subjects of His Majesty; but what I want to point out to the House is, that the Oath will not have to be taken again during the present reign, and I do not think it is the habit of any Government to give pledges as to legislation beyond the session in which they are engaged.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): I would ask the right hon. Gentleman whether he could not undertake to devote the small space of time necessary to amend the statute this session?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: What evidence has the hon. Gentleman to support his statement that the time would be small? If the proportion of time taken by his friends in discussing the Supplementary Estimates is any indication, I do not think it would be small.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: The right hon. Gentleman has addressed a question to me, but I presume it would be out of order to answer him and continue the discussion.

CIVIL SERVICE ESTIMATES.

MR. LODER (Brighton): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether any objection exists to varying the order in which the items of the Civil Service Supplementary Estimates are put down in different years, so that some of the more important Supplementary Votes may be taken first; and, if not, whether he will arrange for some change to be made in this respect next year.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I have to say there is no objection, so far as I know, to the suggestion contained in the question, which is in entire accordance with the policy we have followed the last two years back, with regard to the order in which the Estimates are taken. As my hon. friend is aware, we have initiated the practice of putting down on the Vote on Account the Estimates which are most likely to attract the interest and attention of the House. We have, in regard to the ordinary Estimates of the year, taken care so to arrange them as to meet the general convenience of the House, and I see no reason why the same policy should not be extended to the Civil Service Supplementary Estimates.

MR. DILLON: Will the right hon. Gentleman give a pledge to adhere to the practice of not altering the order of the Votes without a general consultation with the different sections of the House?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not know what the hon. Member means by "general consultation." I have endeavoured always to meet the views of the House at large, and especially of the opponents of the Government.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

MR. COURTENAY WARNER: Are we to understand that the business on Monday next will be the continuation of the debate on the Army Estimates?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Yes. I should imagine that the debate initiated on Friday night will not be concluded on that day, and, if so, we propose to continue it on Monday, unless unforeseen circumstances should arise which necessitate the taking of other business.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.): When is it proposed to renew the debate on the Civil Service Supplementary Estimates?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: On Thursday, after the motion relating to the Civil List.

MR. COURTENAY WARNER: I should like to point out that it has usually been the practice to allow a day or two to elapse between the making of the War Secretary's statement and the further consideration of the Estimate. That was my reason for asking.

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES) (CHAIRMEN'S PANEL).

Mr. HALSEY reported from the Committee of Selection that they had selected the following six Members to be the Chairmen's Panel and to serve as Chairmen of the two Standing Committees to be appointed under Standing Order No. 47:—Mr. John Ellis, Sir James Fergusson, Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice, Mr. Laurence Hardy, Colonel Nolan, and Mr. Stuart-Wortley.

Report to lie upon the Table.

MESSAGE FROM HIS MAJESTY (HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN AND MEMBERS OF HIS MAJESTY'S FAMILY).

The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (at the Bar) acquainted the House that he had a Message from the King to this House signed by His Majesty's own hand.

And he presented the same to the House, and it was read by Mr. SPEAKER (all the Members being uncovered), and is as followeth:—

"EDWARD R.

"His Majesty being desirous of making competent provision for the honourable support and maintenance of His Son, the Duke of Cornwall and York, His Daughter-in-law, the Duchess of Cornwall and York, and his Daughters, the Princess Louise, Duchess of Fife, the Princess Victoria, and Princess Charles of Denmark, and being further desirous that similar provision should be made for Her Majesty the Queen in the event of Her surviving Him, and for the Duchess of Cornwall and York in the event of Her surviving the Duke of Cornwall and York, recommends the consideration thereof to His Majesty's faithful Commons, and relies on their attachment to adopt such measures as may be suitable to the occasion."

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

London Underground Railways.

That they have come to the following resolution, viz.:—

"That it is desirable that a Select Committee be appointed to join with a Committee of the House of Commons to consider and report:—

1. Whether the lines of route for underground railways in and near London, proposed by Bills which have been or may be introduced during the present Session, are best calculated to afford facilities for present and probable future traffic; and, if not, what modifications of those lines of route are desirable;
2. What special provision, if any, should be made for the protection of the owners, lessees, and occupiers of properties adjacent to underground railways from possible damage and annoyance;
3. What special terms and conditions, if any, as to the construction and working should be imposed upon the promoters;
4. Whether any, and which, of the schemes proposed by the said Bills should not be proceeded with during the present Session."

NEW BILLS.

WATER COMPANIES (LIABILITY FOR STORAGE OF WATER).

Bill to amend the Law relating to the liability of Water Companies for the Storage of Water, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Sinclair, Major Rasch, Mr. Rentoul, Mr. Flynn, and Mr. A. Thomas.

WATER COMPANIES (LIABILITY FOR STORAGE OF WATER) BILL.

"To amend the Law relating to the liability of Water Companies for the Storage of Water," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Tuesday, 19th March, and to be printed. [Bill 81.]

EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY EXTENSION.

Bill to amend the Acts relating to Employers' Liability, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Sinclair, Major Rasch, Mr. Rentoul, Mr. Boulnois, Mr. Flynn, and Mr. A. Thomas.

EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY EXTENSION BILL.

"To amend the Acts relating to Employers' Liability," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Tuesday, 19th March, and to be printed. [Bill 82.]

LIGHTS ON VEHICLES.

Bill to require Vehicles on highways to carry lamps at night, ordered to be brought in by Sir Robert Mowbray, Mr. Bryce, Mr. Grenfell, Sir John Leng, Mr. Scott Montagu, Mr. Wanklyn, and Sir Albert Rollit.

LIGHTS ON VEHICLES BILL.

"To require Vehicles on highways to carry lamps at night," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Thursday next, and to be printed. [Bill 83.]

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT (1871) AMENDMENT.

Bill to amend the Factory and Workshop Act, 1878, by reducing the period of employment on Saturday, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Harwood and Mr. Kenyon.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT (1878) AMENDMENT BILL.

"To amend the Factory and Workshop Act, 1878, by reducing the period of employment on Saturday," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Thursday, 21st March, and to be printed. [Bill 84.]

RIVERS POLLUTION PREVENTION.

Bill to make more effectual provision for the prevention of the Pollution of Rivers and Streams, ordered to be brought in by Sir Francis Powell, Mr. Wilson-Todd, Mr. Henry Hobhouse, Sir John Dorington, Dr. Farquharson, Mr. Brigg, Sir John Brunner, and Sir Walter Foster.

RIVERS POLLUTION PREVENTION BILL.

"To make more effectual provision for the prevention of the Pollution of Rivers and Streams," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Wednesday, 8th May, and to be printed. [Bill 85.]

SUNDAY CLOSING (WALES) ACT (1881) AMENDMENT.

Bill to amend the Sunday Closing (Wales) Act, 1881, and to make further provision respecting the sale of intoxicating liquors in Wales and Monmouthshire, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Herbert Roberts, Mr. Alfred Thomas, Mr. Lloyd-George, Mr. William Jones, and Mr. Herbert Lewis.

SUNDAY CLOSING (WALES) ACT (1881) AMENDMENT BILL.

"To amend the Sunday Closing (Wales) Act, 1881, and to make further provision respecting the sale of Intoxicating Liquors in Wales and Monmouthshire," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Wednesday, 20th March, and to be printed. [Bill 86.]

PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS (MARINERS' VOTES).

Bill to enable Officers and Seamen of the Royal Navy and Mercantile Marine and Fishermen to record their votes when by reason of their calling they will be at sea on the day of the poll, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Macdona, Sir John Colomb, Mr. Cust, Mr. David Morgan, Sir Seymour King, Mr. Firbank, and Sir Christopher Furness.

PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS (MARINERS' VOTES) BILL.

"To enable Officers and Seamen of the Royal Navy and Mercantile Marine and Fishermen to record their votes when by reason of their calling they will be at sea on the day of the poll," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Tuesday next, and to be printed. [Bill 87.]

SUPPLY.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1901–2 (VOTE ON ACCOUNT).

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £17,304,000, be granted to His Majesty, on account, for or towards defraying the Charges for the following Civil Services and Revenue Departments for the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1902, namely:—

CIVIL SERVICES.

Class IV.

	£
Board of Education	4,100,000

Class II.

Board of Trade	60,000

Class I.

Royal Palaces and Marlborough House	20,000
Royal Parks and Pleasure Gardens	40,000
Houses of Parliament Buidings ...	16,000
Gladstone Monument	1,000
Miscellaneous Legal Buildings, Great Britain	18,000
Art and Science Buildings, Great Britain	12,000
Diplomatic and Consular Buildings	12,000
Revenue Buildings	140,000
Public Buildings, Great Britain ...	145,000
Surveys of the United Kingdom ...	80,000
Harbours under the Board of Trade	2,000
Peterhead Harbour	6,000
Rates on Government Property ...	250,000
Public Works and Buildings, Ireland	70,000
Railways, Ireland	70,000

Class II.

United Kingdom and England:—

House of Lords, Offices	3,000
House of Commons, Offices... ...	12,000
Treasury and Subordinate Departments...	39,000
Home Office	50,000
Foreign Office	30,000
Colonial Office	23,000
Privy Council Office, etc.	5,000
Privy Seal Office	1,000
Mercantile Marine Services ...	30,000
Bankruptcy Department of the Board of Trade	3
Board of Agriculture	75,000
Charity Commission...	15,000
Civil Service Commission	18,000
Exchequer and Audit Department...	24,000
Friendly Societies Registry... ...	2,200
Local Government Board	85,000

Lunacy Commission	5,000
Mint (including Coinage)	10
National Debt Office	6,000
Public Record Office	11,000
Public Works Loan Commission	5
Registrar General's Office	130,000
Stationery and Printing	280,000
Woods, Forests, etc., Office of	8,000
Works and Public Buildings, Office of	23,000
Secret Service	40,000

Scotland :—

Secretary for Scotland	25,500
Fishery Board	8,000
Lunacy Commission	2,500
Registrar General's Office	28,000
Local Government Board	5,000

Ireland :—

Lord Lieutenant's Household	2,000
Chief Secretary and Subordinate Departments	16,000
Departments of Agriculture	70,000
Charitable Donations and Bequests Office	1,000
Local Government Board	26,000
Public Record Office	2,000
Public Works Office	16,000
Registrar General's Office	20,000
Valuation and Boundary Survey	6,000

Class III.

United Kingdom and England :—

Law Charges	40,000
Miscellaneous Legal Expenses	27.000
Supreme Court of Judicature	140,000
Land Registry	14,000
County Courts	14,000
Police, England and Wales	22 000
Prisons, England and the Colonies	260,000
Reformatory and Industrial Schools, Great Britain	140,000
Broadmoor Criminal Lunatic Asylum	18,000

Scotland :—

Law Charges and Courts of Law	30,000
Register House, Edinburgh	15,000
Crofters Commission	2,000
Prisons, Scotland	30,000

Ireland :—

Law Charges and Criminal Prosecutions	35,000
Supreme Court of Judicature, and other Legal Departments	45,000
Land Commission	50,000
County Court Officers, etc.	46,000
Dublin Metropolitan Police	40,000
Royal Irish Constabulary	600,000
Prisons, Ireland	45,000
Reformatory and Industrial Schools	55,500
Dundrum Criminal Lunatic Asylum	3,500

Class IV.

United Kingdom and England :—

British Museum	80,000
National Gallery	9,000
National Portrait Gallery	3,000
Wallace Collection	4,000
Scientific Investigation, etc., United Kingdom	25,000
Universities and Colleges, Great Britain, and Intermediate Education, Wales	41,000

Scotland :—

Public Education	650,000
National Gallery	1,400

Ireland :—

Public Education	600,000
Endowed Schools Commissioners	400
National Gallery	1,400
Queen's Colleges	2,500

Class V.

Diplomatic and Consular Services	225,000
Uganda, Central and East Africa Protectorates and Uganda Railway	320,000
Colonial Services	230,000
Cyprus, Grant in Aid	15,000
Subsidies to Telegraph Companies	50,000

Class VI.

Superannuation and Retired Allowances	280,000
Merchant Seamen's Fund Pensions, etc.	3,000
Miscellaneous Charitable and other Allowances	1,000
Hospitals and Charities, Ireland	17,000

Class VII.

Temporary Commissions	10,082
Miscellaneous Expenses	8,000
	£10,434,000

Revenue Departments.

Customs	350,000
Inland Revenue	830,000
Post Office	3,800,000
Post Office Packet Service	210,000
Post Office Telegraphs	1,680,000
Total for Revenue Departments	£6,870,000
Grand Total	£17,304,000"

*Mr. YOXALL (Nottingham, W.) said that during the last twelve months they had had in the administration of the Board of Education a very serious departure from those principles which had been laid down in the past in this House; and a very serious blow had been struck at the integrity and efficiency of the higher elementary school work of this realm. He found that, in January, 1899, little more than two years ago, the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education made a statement which was then, and was now, he believed, in consonance with the wishes of the

House and the desires of the country. He would quote that statement and then proceed to show the Committee to what extent and in what manner the administration of the Board of Education had departed from the sound principles laid down by the Minister in charge himself. Speaking at Bradford, the right hon. Gentleman said that "he thought that it would be a most unfortunate thing if the board schools, the higher elementary schools, and the schools of science in the large cities were in any way interfered with." He had to submit to the Committee that the operations of the school boards in the great cities of the country in their higher grade schools and schools of science had been very seriously interfered with by the Board of Education under the administration of the right hon. Gentleman himself.

The Committee would remember that little more than twelve months ago a great amount of feeling was manifested in the House upon the question of higher elementary school work. A new principle of allocating the Parliamentary grant to elementary schools had been brought in, and one consequential feature of it was, that the schools which had previously received the highest grants were by the levelling system cut down in the amount which they drew from the grant. A formidable agitation grew up in the country that the higher grade schools were being unjustly treated, and in March, 1900, the Government, through the mouthpiece of the right hon. Gentleman, announced a compromise and promised to put organised schools and higher grade schools on a legal and legitimate footing. That promise had not been carried out, and the Higher Elementary School Minute, adopted in April last with general approval of the House, at a time when the feeling of hon. Members of all sections was so strong, had not been adhered to; and in spirit, if not in letter, that Minute had become something like an administrative fraud. He must go back further than twelve months ago in order to deal with the whole question of the attack on higher grade schools, which, if not initiated and not favoured, had at least been not repudiated by the Board of Education, and by the right hon. Gentleman himself. This attack had grown and grown until the higher grade schools and the organised science schools were in great peril. The evening continuation schools were in greater peril, and the machinery set up in April last had been nullified and stultified by the Board of Education itself. Four years ago, by the enterprise of many school boards, schools had been set up something after the pattern of *Les Ecoles Primaires Superieures* in France, and the higher grade schools in Germany. These schools were fostered and encouraged by the Board of Education, grants were given to them, and expression of satisfaction were made regarding the work done by them. The Vice-President of the Council went down to the country to open these schools; sometimes an official from the Board of Education itself performed that duty, and, generally speaking, the policy of the Department was to foster and encourage, approve and improve these schools. But a change came over that policy. Schools which had been built by school boards, some of them on the invitation even of the Board of Education, for the express purpose of giving this higher grade education, were refused grants when application was made for them by the school boards. Money laid out in furnishing physical and chemical laboratories, and in the preparation of rooms for drawing and other higher elementary work, became of non-effect; and all this was done by the order of the Board of Education under the right hon. Gentleman.

Now, the Board of Education existed by the will of the people of this country, and the right hon. Gentleman himself, as its head, existed to promote and not to retard education; and if there were any gentlemen on the Board of Education who were of opinion that education was to be kept at a standstill, marking time, so to speak, and that what was regarded as a satisfactory amount of education twenty-five years ago was sufficient now, then they entirely misinterpreted the feeling of the House and the country. Those higher grade schools were fulfilling an admirable function. They were not very numerous, only some sixty in all, but, such as they were, they were preparing lads of from thirteen to sixteen years of age to enter the technical schools and colleges of the country with that preliminary knowledge which the directors of these schools and colleges found to be non-existent formerly. They were preparing these lads to become captains of industry, managers, foremen, draftsmen, chemists, and leaders of the industrial classes. If one lesson was to be gained from the Reports of Royal Commissions and private investigators as to the condition of things in France, Germany, Belgium, Holland, and America, it was that the cause of the success of the manufacturing processes in these countries, compared with our own, consisted in the higher education of foremen, managers, leaders, etc. The higher education of the great mass of the operatives was comparatively unimportant to that. The higher grade schools and the schools of science existed for providing an education of that kind, which was vitally necessary to the continued existence of the manufacturing industries of this country. The change had begun through the action of an institution that had been condemned both in the House and in the country—the old Science and Art Department at South Kensington. When the Board of Education issued a Day School Code, it had to lie on the Table of the House for a certain number of days, and could be upset by the vote of the House; but this Science and Art Department had had the extraordinary power of being able to issue their own rules and regulations without consulting the House or laying them on the Table at all.

The reactionary, foolish, almost criminal policy of hampering the schools appeared to have found a ready supporter in the right hon. the Vice-President of the Council. The first step taken was to disable school boards from receiving Science and Art grants for science and art classes and organised science schools. But grants were given to all sorts of unimportant and unrepresentative bodies; in fact, to any committee of two or three gentlemen, if only they could get some little local support in the way of fees or subscriptions. Ordinary grammar schools maintained very largely by endowments, and proprietary schools run as a commercial concern for profit, might apply for these science grants and get them; but by a ukase of this self-constituted and independent section of the Board of Education, issued last year, school boards might not make application for grants to their schools except upon conditions. They must find local support in the shape of fees, which was opposed entirely to the policy of free education, or they must obtain support from a rate levied under the Technical Instruction Act. Now the Department knew that very few local authorities rated themselves under the Technical Instruction Act. They did not see the use of doing that when there was a school rate already drawn by the same authority from the same ratepayer.

The policy was first of all to disable the school boards from obtaining Science and Art grants for their schools. That being done by the autocratic procedure of the Board of Education, the next step was to disable the school boards from making up this loss by preventing them from using the school board rate for the purposes of higher education.

Having succeeded in disabling the school boards from participating in Science and Art grants, except on condition of charging fees, the next step was to prevent the boards from using the school board rate. The result was that a School of Art in North London, a relic of the era of philanthropic enterprise, drew the attention of the Local Government Board to the expenditure of the London School Board in science and art classes and evening continuation schools. The auditor, under the circumstances, was obliged to test the question raised, and it was desirable to know whether the Board of Education was represented at the audit, and whether the attention of the auditor was drawn to the past administration of the Board in that matter, and whether any care was taken by the Board to see that the auditor was fully informed upon the question from the point of view of public policy, and of law, and of the minutes having the force of law. The Committee would also wish to know whether the Board of Education made any representations, or whether it did anything more than sit quiet and wait the decision of the law courts upon what had taken place. The case stood for appeal to a higher court, and meanwhile there was the unseemly spectacle of the authority charged with the duty of providing higher elementary education compelled to go into the law courts and spend the money of the ratepayers in defending the right of the authority to give higher education. Last April the policy of the Government was to favour and encourage and to reward the higher elementary schools' efforts. What had the Board of Education done since last April to make the actions of the board schools legal by minutes or otherwise to make such administration applicable. Nothing had been done by the Board of Education, and, so long as the present policy existed, nothing would be done. It was significant that a committee had been formed to fight school boards on this question, and had for its chairman the noble Lord the Member for Greenwich, while another prominent member of the committee and associated with him was long the leader of the Moderate party on the London School Board, and now, he believed, Member for Aston. The result had been that the work of the school boards in regard to science classes had been paralysed. The work of evening continuation schools had been damaged irretrievably or retarded for years to come. The condition had been imposed that education should be confined to persons under sixteen, and as a consequence 150,000 persons in those schools last year would, if the decision were upheld, be ousted from that means of education.

They had been told that the Higher Elementary School Minute would place science schools on a legal and legitimate footing, but he complained that out of 190 applications the Department had sanctioned only two in eleven months. The London School Board made application for the recognition of seventy-nine schools, in various localities of London, to which the most promising children of the elementary schools were to be drafted. All the principal school boards of the country, too, made application for recognition of higher elementary schools, and again and again they had failed. All sorts of pretexts had been made for the refusal of recognition. It had been impossible for the local authorities to please the Board of Education, and no school board in the country was satisfied with the way in which the Minute had been administered, and hardly one but was disgusted with the administration of the right hon. Gentleman. The right hon. Gentleman, no doubt, would say he expected when this Minute was put forward that the ordinary science schools would be transformed into higher elementary schools, and would probably say that he was not to blame; but that was not the opinion generally held. In an organised science school a boy might remain until the age of eighteen, but according to the Higher Elementary School Minute the moment he arrived at fifteen he had to leave. Other conditions laid down in the Minute made it impracticable, and the right hon. Gentleman was warned at the time it was put forward that it would be so.

All this indicated, he submitted, something like a deliberate policy, engineered by whom, and arising from what sources, he would not attempt to discuss. It was something like a deliberate policy to check the higher elementary education, nullify the efforts of the school boards, and change the whole policy of the country in respect to these schools, and the Committee ought to consider that such a policy was not the kind of work they expected the Board of Education to do, and not the kind of work for which money was voted in Committee for the Board of Education. Having disabled the school boards, having refused to recognise the higher elementary schools, having destroyed one useful set of machinery which had existed for twenty-four years, having refused to set up a new set of machinery, he could find no excuse for the course which the Board had pursued. From what quarter and from what machinery they were to get the higher primary school at all? There was no secondary education department set up by statute. The school boards had been refused power to set up these schools, and there was no authority capable of supplying them. Higher elementary education was to go by the board. They had to wait, he supposed, for higher primary schools to be built and managed by an authority not yet created. In the meantime the excellent work done up to now was hampered and arrested, and if the appeal in another place went against them it was to come entirely to an end. The right hon. Gentleman the Vice-President of the Council would quibble, if he might use the term, between higher elementary schools and secondary schools, and distinguish between one authority and another, and cast himself on the protection of the law. No doubt he would give a very plausible explanation of the whole circumstances, but the hon. Member would ask the Committee to remember that the net result of all these proceedings was bad. The right hon. Gentleman would tell them that the Government were limited at present by legal considerations. They had heard a good deal of that kind of thing from the right hon. Gentleman. There was nobody more eloquent and less operative than the right hon. Gentleman, but eloquent platitudes and amusing epigrams were poor food for the educational needs of the country.

In moving that the Vote be reduced by £100 he asked the Committee to declare that the time had come when they wished the Education Board to make a serious attempt to provide for the people of the country that higher elementary education which they stood in need of, and which it was in the interests of the country they should have.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Item, Vote 1, Class 4 (Board of Education), be reduced by £100."—(*Mr. Yoxall.*)

THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Sir J. GORST, Cambridge University): The hon. Member who has just sat down complained of two things. First, he complained that school boards had not power to spend the school board rate upon instruction outside the subjects of the Elementary Education Code in day schools and night schools; and, secondly, he complained that under the Higher Elementary School Minute of last year the school boards did not get large enough Exchequer grants for their higher elementary schools.

Now it is quite true that these higher elementary schools sprang up almost immediately after the passing of the Elementary Education Act of 1870. They were not invented by either Governments or societies; they really sprang up by themselves. I do not think any the worse of them for that, for such schools are better suited to meet the wants of the people than those invented for them by politicians. I want to ask the Committee to remember what the hon. Member has not explained as yet, that there are two absolutely different kinds of higher grade schools. In the first place, there are a number of higher grade schools which teach each of the subjects of the Elementary Day School Code. They were formerly under the Education Department. They were inspected by the officers of the Education Department, and they were subject to all the rules of the Education Department. I have very often been asked how many of this sort of schools there are. I am sorry to say that I have never been able to answer the question, because there is every kind of school in the shading off from the most elementary school in the country up to the very best of these higher grade schools, and every possible variation of schools between one extreme and the other which keep within the limits of the Elementary Day School Code. It is impossible to say where to draw the line and to say of the schools above, "These are higher grade schools," and of the schools below, "These are only ordinary elementary schools." But there is no doubt there are a very great number of them. The legality of these schools has never been called in question, nor has the right of th school board to spend the rates in building and maintaining such schools ever been called in question. The right to spend the rates on schools of this kind is not in any way affected or called in question by the recent judgment. But, besides these higher grade schools, of the legality of which there has never been any question, there is another kind of higher grade school which I will describe. It is a school which consists of two divisions—an upper division and a lower division. The lower division is a public elementary school; it very generally takes the older children in the higher standards, it takes specific subjects, and it obtains its grants from the Education Department, and is conducted as an elementary school. The upper division is not a public elementary school at all; it is, frankly, an organised school of science. It has no children in the standards. It takes not the subjects of the Elementary Day School Code, but the science and art subjects of the Directory. It is inspected by the inspectors of the Science and Art Department, and it receives its grant from that Department. It is an organised science and not a public elementary school. Schools of this kind, of which there are about sixty or seventy in the country, are inspected by two distinct sets of inspectors. The Education Department inspector inspects the lower division and shuts his eyes to the existence of the higher division, of which he is not officially cognisant. The Science and Art Department inspector comes in his turn and inspects the other division, and closes his eyes to the existence of the lower division, with which he has officially nothing whatever to do. There is no inspection of these schools as a whole. There are no proper accounts kept of these schools as a whole, and they are kept as a sort of double institutions such as I have described. Schools of this kind have never been declared to be illegal either by the Education Department or by the judgment in the recent case. There is no illegality in the establishment of such schools. The illegality is in the application of the school rate to the building or maintenance of the upper division of that school. That is not a new discovery of mine or of the Science and Art Department. It has been known ever since schools of this kind were conducted.

I will just give the Committee an example or two of what was said in past times. I have here an official letter from the Education Department to the Barrow-in-Furness School Board, written in 1884, which says—

> "I am to point out that the provision of a separate school for science and art classes does not appear to come within the province of a school board."

Then there is a letter from the Local Government Board to the London School Board, in November, 1885, when an auditor had disallowed an expenditure of the Board exactly analogous to that which was disallowed the other day. The Local Government Board says—

> "The School Board have no authority in law to establish or maintain a science and art school at the expense of the school fund, because that school is not an elementary school within the meaning of the Education Acts."

Then there is a letter written to the London School Board in 1888, which says—

> "An organised science and art school is quite distinct from a public elementary school. In such a school the money paid by the Science and Art Department to the managers forms no part of the receipts or expenditure of the school as a public elementary school. . . . . The rates cannot legally be applied to supply instruction in any subject which is not recognised by the Code and taught to the children in the standards."

I have another letter written, in 1888, by the Local Government Board to the Brighton School Board, who had also had their expenditure disallowed by their auditor upon similar grounds. It says—

> "The school board had no legal authority to pay out of the funds of the school board any part of the costs of establishing and maintaining an organised school of science, the school not being an elementary one within the meaning of the Education Acts."

I find again, in 1892, a letter to the Hanley School Board, which says—

> "The higher section of the [higher grade] school organised as proposed and receiving grants from the Science and Art Department as an organised science school would not be a public elementary school, nor could the cost of the erection of the premises in which it was to be conducted be included in a loan sanctioned by this Department."

I think that that will show that the expenditure of the school rate on the maintenance of schools like the upper department of this kind of upper grade school has all along been declared by the Education Department to be illegal, and the judgment given the other day only confirmed the statements of the Department under every kind of Minister, from the time these schools were established down to the present day. There was no difficulty about the buildings, because the schools were established in buildings which were already in existence, or which, in some cases, were given for the purpose.

As regards maintenance, the schools were at the outset maintained not out of the school rate, but by fees and the Science and Art grants. Some of the school boards boasted not only that the schools were not a burden on the rates.

but that the ratepayers made a profit from the fact that the school board managed a school of this kind. I should like to establish what I have said by a quotation or two. The Brighton School Board writes, in 1887—

> "If the amount of the fees received is taken into account, it will be seen that a profit to the ratepayers has resulted."

Before the Education Commission in 1884, Mr. Scotson, the headmaster of the Central Higher Grade School, Manchester, said, in answer to a question on this point, "It is practically more than self-supporting." He very frequently had more than £150 to distribute amongst the teachers, of which £50 used to go to himself. A great deal has been said in these controversies about the late Mr. Mundella's Circular in 1882, which undoubtedly encouraged the establishment of these schools. What did he say? I have never seen it quoted—

> "Under a well-organised system of graded schools the cost to the ratepayers need not be greater than it is now."

MR. YOXALL: With the Science and Art grants.

SIR J. GORST: Then Mr. Macarthy, the chairman of the Birmingham School Board, gave evidence before the Secondary Education Commission in 1895, and this is what he said—

> "I should like to say that the present Board secondary school can only rightly exist if, so far as its most ordinary work is concerned—namely, the real secondary work—it costs the local rates nothing. Practically, such schools are dependent on grants from the Science and Art Department."

To show my *bona fides* in the matter, I may mention that in 1896, when I was comparatively new to this office, I wrote an article on education, which appeared in the *Nineteenth Century.* That article was very much complained of on some accounts, but this particular passage was criticised by no one—

> "The Boards, as purveyors of higher education, allege that they make a profit which inures to the benefit of the ratepayers."

That shows my *bona fide* belief of a few years ago, that the school rate was not spent on the maintenance of these schools, and that they were really not only self-supporting, but, in some cases, even a source of profit to the ratepayers.

Then there is the question of buildings. That, of course, is the difficulty. A school board cannot raise a loan to build a school without obtaining the sanction of the Education Department to the loan. School boards from time to time applied for loans to build schools of this kind, but they were always told that it would not be legal to charge such loans upon the school rates. Yet, in spite of that, it is quite true that such schools have been built and the expenditure met out of loans charged on the school rate. I will illustrate what the *modus operandi*, generally, was. An application was made by the Brighton School Board for sanction to a loan for building a higher grade school, in which the upper portion should be a school of science. They were informed that such a use of the school board funds was illegal. That application was then withdrawn, and an application was made for a public elementary school giving science instruction under the Code, and having laboratories for that purpose. Sanction to that was given, the school was built, and was at once used not as a public elementary school, but as a school of science.

MR. YOXALL was understood to say that in the case of Hanley the building built with the loan referred to was a public elementary school and an organised school of science as well, but the main part of it was used for the purposes of the latter.

SIR J. GORST: I will give the facts of that case. The Hanley School Board, in 1892, asked for sanction to a school which was to begin at Standard VII., and have a higher department as an organised science school. The Education Department replied that such a department would not be a public elementary school, nor could the cost of the erection of the premises in which it was conducted be included in the loan sanctioned by the Department under the Elementary Education Acts. The school board replied withdrawing that part of the scheme, and saying that the chemical laboratory, art room, etc., would now be used for the instruction of children in the standards of the Education Code. The loan was thereupon sanctioned. The school was opened on 24th May, 1894, and a school of science started in the building. Three years after there were 191 pupils in the organised science school, no science at all being taught to the children in the standards.

MR. YOXALL: Will the right hon. Gentleman quote the figures for the school as a whole, or allow me to do so?

SIR J. GORST: The hon. Member will have an opportunity afterwards; it is not germane to my argument. I am illustrating how it came about that although the Education Department said it was illegal, yet these schools were built. I will give another very recent case which shows exactly how the thing is done. In February, 1899, when attention had been called to this illegality and everybody was aware of it, the Leeds School Board wrote for sanction to a building they required for science accommodation and intended for the use of scholars in the primary elementary schools taking the scientific subjects in accordance with the scheme of science laid down in the Code. The reply of the Education Department was this—

> "We understand the premises to be required for the purposes of a primary elementary school in which science is to be taught in accordance with the scheme laid down in the Code; that the science rooms are not more than sufficient for these purposes; that they will be used for these purposes; and upon that understanding we sanction the loan."

That is clear enough. But this is what the school board say in their report eighteen months later—

> "The fine structure now in course of erection in Burton Street is to be the future home of the present Southern Higher Grade School',

—which is a school of science. I thereupon directed a letter to the school board to ask how they reconciled the condition on which they accepted the sanction to the loan with this statement in their report, but I am sorry to say, although that letter was sent some time ago, they have not yet offered an explanation.

The hon. Member in his speech said that if this judgment is affirmed on appeal it will not touch the buildings, because they are built and done with. But the judgment will, as the hon. Member pointed out, strike at the revenue of the schools. It will prevent the rates being any longer spent in the maintenance of these schools, which, I may say, nobody wishes to see injured or destroyed. The school boards will have three courses open to them. First of all they can return to the condition of things, if it is possible to return to it, which obtained in the early days of these schools; they can charge fees and make the schools self-supporting, as Mr. Mundella said they ought to be, with the provision of free places for children whose parents are unable to pay the fees, but who deserve to be educated in a school of this kind. The second possibility is, to come to terms with the local authority which has power to rate for this purpose. The hon. Member was very scornful about that. The real point is that the borough or urban council has power to lay a rate to be applied to this purpose.

MR. YOXALL: Up to a penny.

SIR J. GORST: Yes, and a penny would in most cases be sufficient. That arrangement is actually in operation at Jarrow-on-Tyne and New Mills, Derbyshire.

MR. YOXALL: In two cases!

SIR J. GORST: Those are two cases I know of and can verify, but I have every reason to believe that there are many other cases, and if there were time I have no doubt I could find them. There is the case of Ulverston. Ulverston was one of the school boards that applied to have an elementary school, and correspondence took place. Undoubtedly they did not want a higher elementary school at all; they wanted a school of science. Negotiations are now going on which, I believe, will be brought to a satisfactory conclusion, by which the county of Lancaster will lay a penny rate in the town of Ulverston and apply that rate to the maintenance of this school.

SIR JOHN BRUNNER (Cheshire, Northwich): Do I understand that the county can levy a rate in Ulverston?

SIR J. GORST: It is rather a curious state of the law at present. Ulverston can lay a penny rate itself, and the county of Lancaster also can lay a penny rate.

SIR JOHN BRUNNER: In Ulverston?

SIR J. GORST: In Ulverston. The Ulverston penny rate is unfortunately already appropriated to some other purpose, and in order to make the thing legal the Ulverston people have requested the county of Lancaster to lay a penny rate upon them, and I have every reason to believe that in the course of a few weeks that will be done, and the rate applied, with the consent of all parties, to enable the school to be established in a legal manner.

SIR JOHN BRUNNER: Will Ulverston then be able to spend twopence in the pound?

SIR J. GORST: Yes. I do not think there is any danger of any one of these schools, if it is a good school, being injured, even assuming the judgment is confimed. The final course open is the Higher Elementary School Minute. I stated last year that the Higher Elementary School Minute was invented on purpose for these schools; it was intended, in the event of the judgment being in acordance with the legal opinion of the Board of Education, to legalise their position.

I must now say a few words about the evening schools. Evening schools are the most chaotic part of the whole of our chaotic system. Evening school instruction ranges from the three R's—which generally have been previously taught to the scholars at the public expense and are being taught again at the public expense—up to such subjects as drawing from the life, differential and integral calculus, spherical trigonometry, and advanced processes of metallurgy. These evening continuation schools draw their revenue from public as well as from private sources. They get their revenue firstly from the rates, which is perfectly legal so long as they keep within the very wide range of the Evening Continuation School Code. Then they draw revenue from the county council for technical instruction, and they also have local taxation money, which comes from the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and which is distributed through the county council. They also have a grant from the Science and Art Department and the grant for elementary education. These schools are inspected by four different sets of inspectors, and they are established by one set of managers who compete with those schools set up by another set of managers, and thus pupils are drawn from schools supported by public money. In the case of London the London School Board took upon itself some three years ago, without any definite Parliamentary authority, to make all the evening schools free, and the effect of making these evening schools free has been not to draw students out of the streets, but to draw students from other schools and institutions. There is no doubt that in the case of a great many of the polytechnics receiving public money the students are drawn away into the schools because they have to pay either smaller fees or no fees at all. It is quite true that if the judgment is confirmed on appeal, these evening schools, maintained by the rates, will not be able to teach subjects outside the Evening School Continuation Code, and they will not be able to teach science.

The Lord President of the Council was asked in the House of Lords the other day* whether he would bring in a Bill to cure this difficulty, and from the answer my noble friend gave in another place I cannot promise, and hon. Members must not expect, that the Government will bring in any Bill which will deal with this specific complaint of school boards. But the Government will bring in a Bill, as my noble friend said in the House of Lords, upon which all these points can be raised, and upon which a Parliamentary decision can be taken. The Government will bring in a Bill for the creation of secondary education authorities having power to provide public instruction in those subjects which are not contained in the Elementary and Evening Continuation Schools Codes. Parliament will then decide whether there is to be one authority for dealing with education. If it decides that there should be only one, it will then have to say who that authority shall be. If Parliament decides to have two authorities, the House will then have to decide what definition of higher education shall be adopted, and where the limit of one authority ceases and that of the other begins.

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* See preceding volume of *Debates*, page 978.

Parliament will also have to decide another matter which has never yet been brought to a decision. That is, whether it is for the interest of the country that adults shall receive this higher education or any education at the expense of the country. I do not wish to prejudice this question at all. There is, of course, a great deal to be said on both sides. But take a case of this kind: A person of mature life wishes to amuse himself, to provide himself with recreation by drawing. Has he any right to ask the ratepayers or the taxpayers to pay not only the cost of his being taught, but also of the materials which he uses?—because, I am told, anybody who wishes to learn drawing has nothing to do but to walk into one of the London evening continuation schools, and he can there get most excellent instruction and have all his materials found for him. It may be right that that should be done, but I think Parliament ought to decide it. I do not think it is right that even such an august body as the London School Board should decide that question without the authority of Parliament, and certainly upon the Bill to be brought in the House will have an opportunity of deciding this question.

I have already detained the House rather a long time, but I must briefly refer to the Higher Elementary School Minute. The Higher Elementary School Minute does no doubt diminish the Exchequer grants received by the higher grade schools of the type to which I have been referring, and that I say is perfectly legal and perfectly right. That question was discussed last session. It is inseparable from the system of the block grant that those schools that are earning most from the Government should suffer; but, on looking through the figures, I find that the School Board of London all through London has lost only £4,000 by the operation of the block grant system, representing a one-thirty-seventh of a penny rate. Cardiff lost one-sixth of a penny, Liverpool one-fifteenth of a penny, Manchester one-eighth of a penny, and so on. I do not think the higher grade schools are in any danger, because a slightly greater proportion of their cost will be defrayed by rates and a slightly less proportion will be paid out of the Consolidated Fund. It does not seem to me to be reasonable that rich schools should come to this House and cry out that we are destroying the higher grade schools by putting on them a charge of one-thirty-seventh of a penny.

I do not think that I need say much more. The agitation that is going on in regard to this matter is really an attempt on the part of the school boards of the country to get themselves made secondary education authorities as the school boards are in Scotland. We can discuss that when the Bill to which I have already referred comes on. I will only just say briefly what are my objections to the school board as the education authority. My first objection is its inapplicability to the rural districts, which require higher education quite as much as, if not more than, the great towns. My second objection is that the methods of the school boards have the effect of destroying excellent institutions which already exist and which are doing really good work. I am sorry to say that the figures show that there is not the slightest doubt that the secondary schools of London, which have been aided by the Technical Instruction Committee of the London County Council, and which are very efficient schools, have been injured by the higher grade schools of the London School Board; for whereas formerly a great number of children from the elementary schools found their way into these secondary schools, they are now kept out of these schools because the School Board keep them in the inferior schools, and they are not allowed to enter the higher schools. It will be seen that, so far from giving the children of working men a better education, you are actually preventing them getting the better education which they would otherwise get. My third objection is that the type of school established by the school board is not the type you would like to see all over this country.

It is tainted by the defects of our elementary school system—defects which lead to too much of an attempt to drill and too much training of the children, and too little attempt is made to develop their character and give them any originality of their own. You cannot help this if you have hundreds of children under one management, for it is impossible for the head of the school to superintend such a large number and to know enough of the children to enable him to develop their character at the same time. These are the reasons why we think the school boards should not be made the authority for these higher grade schools. One thing I quite admit, and that is, that we shall never have anything like a proper system of education in this country until we make up our mind what is to be the authority, until we have one authority, and until schools of every kind and every grade are placed under that authority. Then there will be no more overlapping, no more trouble about the particular kind of school, or the particular course of education to be given in it; because if you have one authority in a district you can lay out a plan of education suited to the wants of the people of that district, and you can build such schools as are necessary for the peculiar wants and idiosyncrasies of the people of the district. You would have education carried on in a sensible and business kind of manner, and you would get rid of the chaos which exists at present.

*MR. J. H. WHITLEY (Halifax) said he wished to draw the attention of the right hon. the Vice-President to the special difficulties under which evening continuation schools at present laboured. He could speak with some little authority on this question, from the fact that for the last fifteen years he had been engaged in Halifax in the management of some of the most successful continuation schools in the country. The first thing he wanted was the abolition of the 17s. 6d. limit. He did not know whether it had been an oversight on the part of the right hon. Gentleman, but when the Day School Code abolished the 17s. 6d. limit, it was left in existence in regard to evening schools, which was an extreme hardship. For fifteen years those with whom he had been working had been labouring to raise the standard of education in those evening schools, and when, at the end of fourteen years, they were able to earn grants exceeding the 17s. 6d., they found that the money could not be paid because this iniquitous regulation still remained on the Evening School Code.

The second matter which he wished to press on the right hon. Gentleman was the connection between the evening and the day schools. Three years ago the right hon. Gentleman introduced into the Evening School Code a regulation forbidding children who were attending a day school to attend, at the same time, an evening school. With the spirit of the regulation he agreed, but in actual practice it had resulted in considerable harm to the children they wished to benefit. His most important point was to get the children to pass from the day to the evening school without the break. His experience showed that unless they did that, the chances were doubled or tripled that they would never get them into the evening schools. He would ask whether the right hon. Gentleman would not consider a system whereby a child, within six months of leaving a day school, could enter an evening school. The two systems would overlap in the least degree, but they could be so arranged as to take away the probability of break. What happened was this. Unless a child became a "full timer" during the six months of the summer, he was unable to begin the evening school session at the proper time. All the classes had been arranged, and the children had fixed on their companions. The child did not like to go into the school half-way through the winter session, and therefore in many cases he said he would not go to the evening school until next year. When the break was once made in this way the chances were that they never got such children into evening schools at all. If a reasonable modification of the regulation made eight years ago were introduced, it would not be a hardship on the children in the day schools, and would be a very great advantage to the country.

The third matter he wished to press on the attention of the right hon. Gentleman was physical education in the evening schools. In the evening schools with which he was connected, he had insisted, in spite of the Evening School Code, on a large proportion of physical education. Hon. Members must remember that they were dealing with children who had spent ten hours already at work; and he had always held that it was not advisable that such children should have their education based entirely on book work. Therefore, in his evening schools, it had always been essential that physical drill and gymnastics should be carried on alongside and with mental instruction. He attributed to that fact a large part of the success of these schools, and the high percentage of the regular attendance at them. He would ask the right hon. Gentleman whether, when he was arranging his next Code, he would not put in a specific grant for physical culture under proper precautions. In the present condition of the Army and Navy there was nothing more important than that our youths should get more regular and systematic physical education in the evening schools. He had heard with gratification the concluding words of the speech of the right hon. Gentleman, when he asserted that the Bill he was going to introduce into the House would not be like some other Bills, or like the laws of the Medes and Persians, which could not be altered, but that it would be a Bill which the House could discuss in a businesslike manner, not a cast-iron Bill which they must accept or reject. He trusted that the promise would be fulfilled, and that the Bill would be brought in and discussed in a broad spirit.

Mr. FLOWER (Bradford, W.) said there were two or three matters to which he wished to draw the attention of the Committee and the right hon. Gentleman. First of all, however, he joined cordially in the concluding remarks of the hon. Gentleman opposite. He thought the time had now come when, in discussing matters affecting education, they might well eliminate party elements and think solely in a practical and businesslike way of the very difficult and intricate problems with which they had to deal. The speech of the right hon. the Vice-President was an evidence of that fact.

Passing from that, what was it that evening continuation schools were trying to do? They were trying three things—to combine what he would call a system of night schools with that of continuing the education of children from the elementary day schools, and with a *soupçon* of technical education—and they were failing in the combination. At least, his experience on the London School Board was that the effort to combine the three systems in one was not a success. They had heard accounts brought before the London School Board of such evening continuation schools being opened free, but at a very large cost to the ratepayers, and of the classes being very largely attended. But the Committee would have smiled if they had heard the report as to the actual attendance at some of these classes. Nevertheless, the evening continuation schools of the London School Board were doing a great and useful work, and in these days when public attention was being directed to the large number of young people who were loafing about the streets, one would be sorry to do anything to curtail that useful work, although it needed to be systematised. He sincerely hoped from the speech of the Vice-President that it was the intention of the Government to steadily and persistently persevere in that course. The task was really not so very difficult. They had not to contend against any antagonism, or any public feeling, but only against the smaller petty jealousies between local bodies. Of course the ideal which the right hon. Gentleman had sketched of one central authority would be the true solution of the problem—one local authority responsible for all education throughout well-defined areas.

There was another matter to which he would like to draw attention, and again he did so in no party spirit. From time to time they heard of the educational progress in other countries. That had become almost a commonplace, and in metaphorical language it was urged that England was lagging behind other nations in this respect. Unhappily it was the truth. No matter what codes they might invent, or what authorities they might establish, they had got to come back at last to the quality of the teachers who were going to impart the instruction. [An Hon. Member: And the number of them.] Those who were responsible for the education of this country might make every attempt in other directions, but these would of necessity fail. The scarcity of places in the training colleges was now nothing less than a scandal. Representative after representative of the Education Department had, from the Treasury Bench, deplored the scarcity of places in the training colleges, even after the Chancellor of the Exchequer had met the request of the Education Department with a rebuke. The accommodation in the training colleges was wholly and utterly inadequate to meet the demand, and the result was that young teachers, with every hope that they might make themselves useful public servants, found themselves unable to complete their career or to obtain admission to the training colleges. Consequently they resorted to other professions, and the years of work they had given was lost, besides a considerable amount of public money expended on them. He hoped the Government would consider the question of increasing the number of training colleges. The ideal would be to link the training colleges to the universities, and give the young teachers a taste of that wider life which was obtained in a public university. But if that could not be done, they ought not to see the teachers of the future dropping out of the ranks—hundreds, almost thousands, of capable young people who might be efficient and brilliant teachers, denied admission to the training colleges. He hoped and believed that the religious difficulty was not going any more to hinder them from working for the progress of education. He believed that all the religious difficulties could be settled by a five minutes conference round a common table, on the broad principle of "give and take."

That brought him to another point which he wished to bring before the attention of the Committee—namely, the securing of a reasonable fixity of tenure for the teachers. This equally applied to teachers in voluntary as in board schools. How could they hope to induce the young people of the country to become teachers unless there was some reasonable prospect of fixity of tenure, and some provision made against the arbitrary and capricious dismissal of teachers? He believed himself that that could be secured by a Minute of the Education Department; but if not, it might be done by a Bill of an entirely non-contentious character. But until it was done there would from time to time arise cases of harsh, capricious, and cruel dismissal of teachers. And these would disgust a large number of young people who would otherwise enter the teaching profession.

He would most respectfully and earnestly press on the attention of the right hon. Gentleman the matters which he had brought before the Committee; and he hoped that he would be permitted to express the anticipation that the Bill promised by the right hon. Gentleman would be introduced ere long in the House. At the present moment, all who engaged in the work of education were doing so under difficult conditions. There had been a legal decision of the King's Bench Division pronouncing that much of the education given by the school boards of recent years had been illegal. That decision had been appealed against, although the Education Department had very properly decided to continue paying the grants pending the appeal. This condition of chaos could not, however, and ought not to, go on much longer. It ought to be the serious work of the Government this session to simplify and regulate the education of the country as it ought to be, and to create an authority which would once for all put an end to the disastrous and extravagant system of overlapping, and place the public education of the country on a real businesslike footing.

*DR. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.) said they must all agree with the right hon. Gentleman that every grade of school and each kind of education should be in each district under the same local authority responsible to the people. The right hon. the Vice-President had told them that the right of any school board to use the rates for advanced instruction had been challenged in the courts of law. Now, the very fact of that challenge was, in his opinion, a very serious commentary on the capacity of the officials of the Education Department to interpret the Parliamentary statutes for the last thirty years. The late Mr. Mundella, a predecessor of the right hon. Gentleman, had gone out of his way to invite the Welsh school boards to establish higher grade schools, although no doubt he had added that they ought to be self-supporting. But, apart from Mr. Mundella, the present Vice-President and other members of the Board of Education had gone down to the country and in various cities and towns made flamboyant speeches congratulating the people of these towns on founding higher grade schools. No opposition had ever been raised by the Department until the other day as to the propriety of using the school rates for the support of these schools. He did not propose to deal further with this part of the question, seeing that the decision of the courts had been challenged, and that the point must hereafter be decided by the final court of appeal.

But what he wanted to come to was a matter which was not *sub judice*, and which had not been challenged in a court of law—namely, the administration of the Higher Elementary Schools Minute. He hoped the House would excuse him if he went into this matter in some detail. Hon. Members would remember that the Education Code last year initiated a very salutary reform — a reform due to the right hon. Gentleman, and which provided for the "block" grant instead of special grants. Under that system a large number of schools which had been devoting attention to a large number of specific subjects lost a great deal of money, and in response to the pressure from both sides of the House—[AN HON. MEMBER: Oh, oh.] —well, or as a result of the spontaneous goodwill towards education which the right hon. Gentleman had always evinced in everything he had said——

SIR J. GORST said that he might explain that the grants to the higher grade schools and the schools of science would be continued until the legal issue of the appeal which had been made to the House of Lords on the point.

*DR. MACNAMARA said he would confine his remarks to the Elementary School Minute of April last, which provided for special instruction and special grants. That Minute seemed to be a genuine endeavour on the part of the right hon. Gentleman to provide facilities for the continuous education of the children of the working classes whose parents were willing to keep them at school up to fifteen years of age. It was on that statement that the hon. Member for Cambridge University based his suggestion for a Higher Elementary Education Minute. It was on the strength of this statement that it was a genuine endeavour to make provision for the further education of the working-class children —rendered necessary by the cutting down of the grants under the Block grant system — that the House has agreed that the Code and the Minute were conducive to the best interests of education. He did not want to put it offensively, but directly the matter had passed away from the House the scope of the Minute began to be dwarfed to a very alarming degree. The local authorities who applied for recognition of their schools under the Minute were promptly told that such schools to be recognised must have a curriculum bearing a close resemblance to the curriculum of a school of science. Schools of science were higher grade schools organised under rules of the now happily defunct Science and Art Department, and which had a curriculum mainly scientific. He complained of that administration; there was nothing in the Minute about conforming to a scientific course. The Minute was one merely establishing higher elementary schools, not higher elementary schools of science; and if that had been the intention of the Minute it would have been better for the House to have been told of it before it passed away from them. The Minute laid down that the Board should decide which grant should be paid in the case of each year's course after consulting the report and recommendation on four points—the suitability of the instruction to the circumstances of the scholars and the neighbourhood; the thoroughness and the intelligence with which the instruction was given; the sufficiency and suitability of the staff; and the discipline and organisation. Of these four points the pregnant phrase was the first. Would the right hon. Gentleman argue that a course of instruction, mainly scientific, would be universally suitable to the use of all schools in all neighbourhoods? If he did not argue in that way then there was nothing in the Minute which would justify the ruling which the Board of Education was now giving right and left, that the provisions of the Higher Elementary School Minute were not applicable to schools of a commercial type. He considered it was a most fatuous ruling. The one thing needed at the present time was opportunity for commercial training. It was always his impression that the Government believed that the one particular need of the moment was commercial education. At a conference held at the Guildhall on the question of commercial education, and which was convened by the London Chamber of Commerce, the Vice-President of the Council agreed that commercial education was in the opinion of the Government essential. That was also shown by the remarks made by the Home Secretary on the previous day when distributing prizes in connection with the London Chamber of Commerce scheme. The right hon. Gentleman said on that occasion, that in being present he was only performing his duty. "It would be a strange thing," he added, "if the Government of a great commercial country like this did not show an interest in a matter so vitally affecting the interests of the country." The way in which the Government showed that interest consisted in their rigidly declining to recognise schools which proposed to give commercial training. The Government must be very unworthy fiduciaries if they deprived the working classes of this one avenue to success which was now open to them. Everybody was alive to the importance of commercial education except those who ought to be most alive to it—those who controlled education. He protested very strongly against this endeavour to rule out commercial training for the people. Although Lord Rosebery and the Colonial Secretary had recently made strong statements as to the necessity for commercial education, all that was received from the Board of Education was well summed up in a letter written to the London School Board:—

> "Business training cannot be recognised as part of the curriculum of higher elementary schools."

But the right hon. Gentleman might say that the Government never having paid for commercial education could not begin to do so now; but that would be an extraordinary statement to make, seeing that the country had paid for commercial instruction and that the Board of Education in its Science and Art Directory made provision for commercial instruction. He hoped the Board of Education would see its way to modify this ruling at once. Let them contrast the system in this country with that of Scotland. Why should not the one be as good as the other—what was sauce for the Scotch gander surely was sauce for the English goose? In Scotland it was always desired that the local authorities should feel themselves free to vary the curriculum according to local needs, but that was not so in England, and the same remark applied to the age for leaving. In Scotland it could be extended to eighteen years, whilst in England it was ruled down to fifteen; the only complimentary explanation being that an English child could at the age of fifteen attain the same intellectual level as a Scotch child of eighteen. The local authorities of Bradford (the Manchester of the woollen trade) desired to have a higher elementary school organised on commercial lines, with French and German as the leading subjects. That was a suggestion which one would have thought would have been encouraged, but it was not, and Bradford was told that it could not have a school organised on commercial lines, it must be a school of science. There was nothing whatever in the Minute to justify any such ruling.

The House had been told a short time ago that there had been some 190 applications for recognition under the Higher Elementary Minute. The same information had been given on the 31st of July last. Were they to understand that no applications were made during the seven months which intervene between those two dates? Out of those 190 applications two only had been recognised. That was the information given to the House nearly twelve months after the Minute was passed, that only two had been recognised out of 190. In London there were seventy-nine high grade schools, and the London School Board, disliking the science course, had foregone the preferential grants and took mostof the cost out of the ratepayers, because they preferred a general commercial curriculum. When the Higher Elementary Minute was introduced they suggested that these seventy-nine schools should be recognised, and the Board of Education magnanimously offered to recognise four, or rather the School Board authorities were told that the Board of Education would consider four out of the seventy-nine. Seventy-nine looked rather a high figure, but that was only one school to every 100,000 of the population. Surely every district with 100,000 population was entitled to one higher grade school. The answer which they obtained was that the Board of Education would consider the advisability of recognising the four schools of science, which would give two higher grade schools in Greenwich and two in Marylebone, those being the places in which these four schools were situated. In nine out of the eleven divisions of the London School Board there were no higher elementary schools under the Minute. In the Division of West Lambeth, which he himself represented, there were seven Parliamentary boroughs with 650,000 population, 130,000 of whom were children attending the elementary schools, and that division did not possess a higher elementary school under the Minute. That was not the spirit in which the Minute was placed before the House of Commons.

He did not want to labour the point, but he could not help saying that, all the country over, there had been a set determination on the part of the Board of Education to put every conceivable obstacle in the way of establishing higher elementary education and the further development of the working-class children. It was simply marvellous how the rulings under the Minute were developing. In April last the Birmingham teachers applied through the Secretary to the Colonies that elementary and higher elementary schools might be held under one roof, and he received a letter from the Board of Education which contained the following—

> "The new Minute does not state that the new type of school must necessarily be in a totally separate building from an ordinary elementary school."

Shortly after that the Hebden Bridge School Board wrote to the Board of Education on the same subject and received the following reply—

> "The Board of Education do not propose to sanction as higher elementary schools, schools which are in part used as ordinary elementary schools. Higher elementary schools must be separate and complete."

He submitted that such a ruling as that was in direct conflict with the ruling obtained by the Colonial Secretary on behalf of the Birmingham teachers.

SIR J. GORST was understood to say that the second ruling was a mistake. He would not object to sanction as higher elementary schools, schools which were partly used as ordinary schools, and in many cases he had sanctioned them.

*DR. MACNAMARA: Had the right hon. Gentleman sanctioned the schools at Hebden Bridge? That was the school to which he was referring, and he would be very much surprised to hear that the Board of Education had at Hebden Bridge sanctioned a higher elementary school and a primary school under one roof. If Minutes were administered in this manner they would before very long be administered entirely out of existence. It was impossible to fix these people. They dodged about from kopje to kopje in a way that put the activity of Christian De Wet into the shade. When endeavouring to fix the responsibility for the deliberate and reprehensible attempt to whittle down the Higher Elementary Minute, the difficulty with which one was confronted was that it was quite impossible to believe the Vice-President could be responsible, for every public utterance of his proclaimed him to be a generous and enlightened and progressive educationalist. Whoever was responsible, having regard to the manner in which we were plunged into the fiercest of commercial struggles with our foreign rivals, it was lamentable to the last degree. It was Little Englandism of the most pernicious type to put these obstacles in the way of most generous facilities for the intellectual equipment of the children of the people. He pleaded for a touch of Imperialism in this matter, and thought that the greatest possible facilities should be given by the Board of Education.

Sir W. HART DYKE (Kent, Dartford) said the debate had been one of extraordinary interest, and if it had shown one thing more than another, it had shown that it was high time that they had something more than these educational speeches from the right hon. Gentleman. It was high time that, after debate upon debate in this House, measures of the kind which had been shown with almost sickening reiteration to be necessary should be produced before them, and that an Act of Parliament should reduce this matter to a practical shape.

Hon. Gentlemen who had spoken on the subject on this occasion had cast upon the administration of the Education Department the imputation that the treatment of higher grade schools for many years had been a serious reflection on the Education Department. He thought the reflection should rather be cast on the people of this country, who for thirty years past had shown so little interest in education. If they had taken half the interest in this question that they had taken in taxation and other matters a remedy would have been found long ago. All Governments had dreaded and shirked the difficulty of filling up the obvious gap between elementary and higher education. He appealed to the House never to cease to put pressure on the Government until the latter produced a measure and gave earnest of their intention to carry it to a practical conclusion. No Government ever had such an opportunity as the Government had at this moment of dealing with the question. This debate showed what an extraordinary change had come over public opinion in respect to this subject, not only outside but within the walls of that House. This new Parliament was prepared to deal practically with the question. He believed that hon. Members were prepared to make some sacrifices of principle on each side to secure a good measure. They were prepared to approach the matter, not as partisans of either the voluntary or school board system, but as educationists. He believed that before many years had passed, and when the first stress of pressure came as regarded our commercial supremacy, we should find what a bitter penalty we had to pay for thirty years of negligence. Facts could be adduced which would show the fruit of the educational efforts in America as regarded the engineering trade. He believed that facts and figures would be brought before the House which would awaken hon. Members and the Government to the urgency of proceeding in this matter. His right hon. friend had alluded to a Bill which was to come before the House. He believed that that Bill had the germs of success in it. He believed that the whole key of the position was that they must trust the representatives of the people in each locality. The less Parliament interfered with the localities the better. They must have a central authority, but the solution of the difficulty was to place the education of the people in some local authority in each district. He appealed to hon. Members, whatever the promised measure was, to remember the huge issues involved, to sink their political differences, and to endeavour to come to a wise and just conclusion.

Mr. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.) said the discussion that day showed that there was a general feeling that the time had come for endeavouring to pass a comprehensive measure which would get rid of the evils and inconveniences which had been so strongly pointed out on the Opposition side of the House. The right hon. Gentleman the Vice-President did not grapple with the difficulty underlying the whole matter—namely, the fact that the higher grade schools, which had been allowed to go on for a good many years, had suddenly found themselves dealt with in an entirely different spirit, and had found themselves in great difficulty in carrying on the work they did.

The House would allow him to say how these higher grade schools came into existence. A Commission which reported in 1868 pointed out that the greatest educational need of the country, besides, of course, the establishment of elementary schools, was the establishment of higher grade schools—secondary schools which should give a practical education to children from the age of fourteen or fifteen for a moderate fee not exceeding £4 a year. Nothing had been done to give effect to that recommendation from that time to now, and except by the schemes of the Endowed Schools Commissioners nothing was done to create these schools, which were the greatest need of the country then, and were the greatest need of the country still. Then came the Education Act of 1870, and two years after that Act came into operation the school boards, feeling that the benefits obtained in the elementary schools were very largely lost because the children could not carry their education further, started these higher grade schools. He did not think the right hon. Gentleman would dispute the growth of these higher grade schools. From that time to now they had been of the greatest possible benefit. No part of our educational machinery had been better than those sixty or seventy schools which would be hit at by the case now under appeal. Therefore this was a very serious case.

It was not denied, and it would not be denied by the Education Department itself, that the line they had taken lately had been very different from the line taken at an earlier time. It would have been quite impossible for the school boards to have gone on as they had done continually developing these schools and working them out on larger lines if the Education Department had adopted the kind of policy which had been adopted lately. He did not at all deny that there were some drawbacks. One of them had been mentioned that night. Under the influence of the science and art grants these schools were going too exclusively on the scientific line. He did not deny that there were some places where it might be true that, as the right hon. Gentleman had pointed out, the higher grade schools were to some extent coming into competition with secondary schools in a way that made it difficult for them to carry on, but, on the whole, the balance of advantage was very greatly on the side of the higher grade schools. They had become so indispensable in the educational machinery of the country that any interference with them ought to have been avoided by the Board of Education. Well, under some influence, the origin of which he could not guess, the Board of Education had disregarded the danger, and they had checked the usefulness of these higher grade schools. He believed that at this moment these schools were in serious difficulty, because in order to satisfy the requirements of the Science and Art Department they had gone on incurring expenses, erecting schools, and purchasing apparatus. Now they found themselves suddenly cut off from the resources on which they had counted, and they were in serous financial difficulties.

Sir J. GORST said he had distinctly stated that until the final judgment was given in the case the grants would be paid.

Mr. BRYCE remarked that there was a sword hanging over their heads, so to speak, and they were unable to develop their work. The present position of school boards was really an extremely difficult one, and one which made it impossible for them to continue the course by which they had rendered considerable service. Therefore, he could not help wishing that the Board of Education, before they issued their new Minute, before they set the Cockerton case going——

Sir J. GORST said he absolutely disclaimed all responsibility for the Cockerton case; the Board of Education had nothing whatever to do with it.

Mr. BRYCE said that in that case the Board of Education ought to have framed their Minute in a different way, and they ought to have administered the Minute in a different spirit from that which they appeared to have pursued. These schools filled gaps, and were doing most useful work. The higher grade schools were doing most useful technical work, and he asked why it should be cut short. There was neither reason, consistency, nor public advantage in the line the Board of Education had taken.

He agreed with the main conclusion of his right hon. friend the Member for the Dartford Division that what was wanted was a systematic revision of the whole system. The Vice-President of the Council had said that there was a want of public interest in the question; but why was there a want of public interest? Because it was perfectly impossible for any private individual, unless he gave his mind to the study of the excessively complicated condition into which our system of education had got, to understand anything about it. This was not a new matter. It had been admitted for years. It was dealt with in the fullest manner by the Royal Commission that reported in 1895. That Commission was unanimous. The right hon. Gentleman on every occasion he had addressed the House since had admitted that the matter was urgent. The present Government had a large majority. Why did it not deal with the question, and why by the Minute of last session did it actually begin to pull down the old house before erecting a new one? That ought not to have been done until they had established a new authority to carry out a new scheme. The Board of Education had reversed that progress, and they had stopped the authority which was doing useful work before they had started a new authority to take its place. He hoped the Committee might take it that there was no doubt that the Government would introduce a Bill. Perhaps they would say whether the Bill would be introduced in this or in the other House?

SIR J. GORST said he was afraid he could not tell the right hon. Gentleman yet.

MR. BRYCE said he would conclude with one piece of advice to the Government. If they desired their Bill to succeed, let them frame it with sole reference to educational considerations, and make it a Bill that should be fair as between the different authorities which were more or less seised of this question, and, above all, let them take every taint of sectarianism out of it. Let there be nothing in the Bill which would arouse those sectarian passions which had so much injured the cause of education, which would impede the passage of the measure, and which would make it more difficult to work. If they would introduce a Bill purely educational, he thought they would have no difficulty in passing it through the House.

EARL PERCY (Kensington, S.) protested against the imputation that those who supported the Government's action in this matter were reactionary and opposed to commercial education. He thought that commercial education was the thing we most needed, probably more than scientific education, and unless it were provided by the Government, or unless the Government provided the means by which that commercial education could be given, we would not retain for long our commercial supremacy in the competition with foreign countries. It by no means followed that they undervalued commercial education because they refused to allow schools to supply it which, by the very essence of their being, were incapable and unfitted to provide it. The hon. Member opposite said that no one would have dreamt when the Minute was discussed in the House that the Government would have placed a construction on it which would prevent the school boards giving commercial education in the schools. He should say that anyone who considered the subject for a moment would see that the Government had no alternative. The Royal Commission on Secondary Education reported that the school boards had already taken the place of what were called by the Schools Inquiry Commission the third grade, and in some cases the second grade schools. The Minute of last year seemed to him to have begun to carry out the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Secondary Education which investigated the subject of these higher grade schools. It laid down the age limit of these schools—the age limit was fifteen—and by doing so it sharply distinguished these schools from the secondary schools, in which the leaving age was sixteen to nineteen years. The whole object of these higher grade schools was that they should provide scientific training for those who were going into industry or manufacture, while the secondary schools should be open to those who could afford more than one or two years attendance after leaving the ordinary public elementary school, and who could undergo a more general and business training which should fit them to go into a college. The Government had agreed to recognise those schools under the Minute.

Surely the wisest policy of the Government in regard to their future Education Bill was to encourage school boards to provide all higher grade science schools which were necesssary for that part of the population which was going to enter into some industry or manufacture; that they should then erect an authority for secondary education which should provide higher grade schools, in which the children should remain for four years, and in which they should have a proper commercial education; and, lastly, that they should provide a regular system of scholarships which should, on the one hand, take the child of the public elementary school to the higher grade organised science school, and, on the other hand, from the public elementary school to the secondary commercial school. When that had been done we would have a thorough businesslike system.

*MR. GEORGE WHITE (Norfolk, N.W.) said he knew it was a somewhat dangerous thing to make any personal reference in first rising to address the Committee, but he wished to say that he had been connected with a large school board for twenty-seven years, and he had for four terms been chairman of that board; he was also a governor of two endowed schools. Therefore he was sure the Committee would pardon him in giving this educational history, because he felt that he had had some opportunity of informing himself in regard to the various phases of educational work, of knowing how they might overlap each other, and how co-operation might be secured with advantage to all.

He felt, in rising to support the Amendment, that he was not opposing any grant of public money for the purpose of education. It must be a relief to the Committee, as it was to himself, for a short time at any rate, to get rid of the interminable discussion they had had upon the war, and the never-ending payments necessary for the cost of the war, and to consider for a few hours matters affecting the condition and the well-being of the people at home. He could not forbear from reminding the Committee that measures of coercion and destruction were far more costly than those of beneficial construction. The prosecution and imprisonment of one Hooligan cost ten times more than an elementary scholar's education. It was a sad and awful thing to feel that when this war should terminate, for the two years it has existed it will have cost more than the whole of the money the State has expended on education since the Act of 1870 was passed. He felt that the House ought to know what plans the Government had for the future with regard to the education of this country, and whether they had any remedy for the chaos the right hon. Gentleman had so graphically described; and especially whether they were prepared to put the higher grade schools on a more permanent footing.

He quite supported the distinct allegation that the Department and its work in recent years, so far as education is concerned, had been of a decidedly reactionary character, not only in regard to legislation, but more especially in regard to the administration of the Acts by the Department. There was the best evidence of this in some portions of the speech of the right hon. Gentleman opposite, in which he attempted to show that the work of school boards need not be injured in the least, because they had the technical education grant, or the rate which the technical committees are allowed to raise, to fall back upon to continue their work. Would any hon. Member contend that the technical grant and the technical rate combined were too much for the work which a technical committee had to undertake, whether in cities, boroughs, or rural districts? This was another evidence on the part of the right hon. Gentleman of the way in which the Department attempted to throw the proper work of the school boards on to some other department of educational work. It did not appear to matter to the right hon. Gentleman who took up this work so long as it was taken away from the school boards.

He would instance two or three cases of the reactionary policy of the Department. The grant-in-aid of three-quarters of a million of money, and the exemptions of denominational schools from rates began a new principle with regard to the administration of grants in connection with education in this country. It seemed to him, and he thought the working out of it would prove, that the grant-in-aid was really intended to assist inefficient schools, which were doing their work very badly, and at the same time to demand no increased efficiency from them. Until this Government came into office it was always thought, and acted upon by educationists in connection with school boards, that the school board was the proper authority to supply any acknowledged deficiency of educational accommodation. It had been for this Government to show that that was not so. He could demonstrate over and over again from examples, from large towns as well as from villages, that obstacles had been put in the way of school boards supplying acknowledged deficiencies, where the accommodation had been insufficient and inefficient, and yet delays, extending to years, had been granted until a denominational effort had been made, rather than permit a school board to be established, or an existing board to supply the deficiency. That was a way of administering the Acts which he did not think was in accordance with the spirit of the Education Act of 1870, and certainly was not in accordance with the action of the Department up to the time this Government came into office.

It was not only in these ways but in the efforts which were apparently being made to check the character of the education in our midst that the Government had shown their reactionary policy. It was not necessary for him to detain the Committee with the history of the growth of higher grade schools, but he could not follow the right hon. Gentleman opposite in his description of their growth. They were but the natural and simple outgrowth of the Act of 1870. Even that Act gave scope for certain specific subjects, and he believed that before that Act was passed grants were administered from the Education Department for specific subjects, some of which were even in these later days almost dragged into what is called secondary education. It was quite true that school boards and those who were anxious to establish higher grade schools did on many occasions proclaim the hope that these schools would be erected and carried on without expense to the rates. But the right hon. Gentleman argued as though that was a proof that the illegality of these schools was acknowledged. It was nothing of the sort. He himself, as a strong advocate, and perhaps the founder, of the higher grade school in connection with one large school board, when he stood before his fellow citizens expressed the hope that in a few years it would not be a burden on the rates. But he did not express the hope because he felt there was any illegality in taking money from the rates in support of such schools. The growth of the interest of the public in education had been slow, and it was necessary, so to speak, to gild the pill a little in order to induce ordinary citizens to give the thing a chance. Mr. Mundella in the same way said the schools should be self-supporting, but by so saying he did not give the slightest intimation that it was illegal to take money from the rates for their support. Surely it was not contended that the education of to-day should be judged upon the same standard as thirty years ago. Was it to be assumed that the progress of the century was to be marked in everything except our educational work? The hon. Member for West Nottingham said that we appeared to be merely marking time in regard to higher education. He thought we were doing worse, and that in the past five years we had gone back.

After a few years experience of the Education Act, the larger school boards began to establish these higher grade schools. Naturally, they found that it tended to economy, and also to efficiency of teaching, to group higher standards in certain schools, and most large towns established these higher grade schools. They were established in order to deal with those children who were capable of following the instruction given in the higher standards, and also those whose parents were willing they should remain at school for a few years longer. He would take the higher grade school at Norwich as an example, and give the concrete history of that school. In the first instance, only a small modicum of science was taught, such as he supposed higher elementary schools were now intended to teach, but they were almost driven by the South Kensington Department to establish a school of science. Therefore, after a few years they established a science school within the higher grade school. He quite agreed that the science schools as then established were too scientific for the curriculum of a popular day school like a higher grade school, and therefore they got relief. The Committee would notice that within two years from that date they had been compelled as a school board to build, in addition to the chemical laboratory which they had in connection with the higher grade school, a physical laboratory, at an expense of £1,000. That had been open only twelve months, and now they were told that all this was illegal, and that they had no right to take any money from the rates for the support of this science school.

The matter of age was another point upon which the Education Department had shown a very reactionary tendency. A little time ago 65 per cent. of the boys and girls in our schools left at the age of eleven. The efforts of all educationists had been devoted to getting children to stay longer at school, especially in the higher grade schools. Nothing could be more suicidal than in the face of the progress which was being made to put this block upon our higher education. What reason was there for it? The ratepayers who had to pay had made no public protest against the application of rates to higher grade schools. As one who knew something of the educational work in the big towns of the country, he said that so far as his knowledge went there was no rate more popular or more willingly paid than the portion which goes to the maintenance of these higher grade schools. He ventured to say that the persons at the bottom of this objection were mainly the head masters of our secondary schools, who had been stirring up the opposition to school board work. Many of these secondary schools were private schools run for private profit. He was somewhat surprised at the attitude of the right hon. Gentleman in comparing the teachers of our higher grade schools and their capacity for giving instruction with the teaching capacity of many of the secondary schoolmasters. It was a sorry thing if the efficiency and thorough training which the best masters in our higher grade schools had had would not compare satisfactorily with that of the secondary schoolmasters, many of whom, although extremely able men, had had no training whatever, so far as the art of teaching was concerned.

A great deal had been said which was not strictly accurate with regard to the influence of higher grade schools upon secondary schools. To a very great extent the fears expressed were groundless. If the secondary schools were doing their duty and giving a thoroughly sound education, why should they be afraid of the competition of the higher grade schools? A cry of this kind was raised in his own city some years ago. It was said that one of the schools there was being injured by the influence of the higher grade school. He sifted the facts, and found that not one scholar less attended the school after the higher grade school was opened than attended previously. But he also found that a year and a half before the higher grade school was opened this endowed school had raised its fees, and in consequence the number of boys attending had considerably diminished. That was before the higher grade school was opened, but yet it was popularly supposed in the city that the higher grade school had injured the endowed school to that extent. Grammar schools, many of which confined themselves to a classical education, would always have a separate section of the community supporting them, because class distinction, which had such influence in the country, would always separate the attendants at the grammar schools from those at the higher grade schools.

While there were some who protested against the action of higher grade schools, let him draw the right hon. Gentleman's attention to the fact that there were very loud protests coming from the great bulk of our organised labour men and artisans against the efforts which were being made to injure the higher grade schools. At labour congresses and trade-union meetings great interest had been excited in this movement, and the right hon. Gentleman would hear from these trade councils that they were determined their children should not be robbed of practically their only chance of securing that education which was necessary to fit them to take their fair position in life. These higher grade schools were the best aids to the technical schools which were being established with such great advantage throughout the country. They were really the groundwork upon which the technical schools might and would be able to build, and instead of restricting their influence in our large towns he would suggest that if the right hon. Gentleman would devise a scheme to extend their influence and advantages to the rural districts he would be doing a great service to the cause of education and to the country at large. The rural districts stood in need of the instruction which the higher grade schools were giving in the more populous districts, and if the right hon. Gentleman would by some scheme or other provide that it should be given he would confer an inestimable advantage upon those districts.

The right hon. Gentleman had laboured a great deal to prove the illegality of the school boards in this matter, but something more would be heard about that when the appeal had been decided. Even if it were demonstrated that their action had all through been illegal, he hoped that the right hon. Gentleman would see fit to provide some means by which the higher grade schools might not be injured in the work they were doing. Those behind the scenes did not forget that long before the Cockerton case was before the country there were attacks upon our higher grade schools in one way or another. In 1896 there was an attack in this House, which was afterwards withdrawn, but there had been a sapping and mining going on ever since, which he felt had been a very great injury. First of all, the Science and Art Department, through the Technical Instruction Committee, did their best to limit the work of the present boards and to prevent new boards taking up science teaching. That had been going on for five years, until it has now culminated in an appeal to the law.

With regard to the Minute of last April a great deal had been said as to the manner in which it had been administered. It restricted the education and the age, and he did not think that the Committee would be satisfied unless the right hon. Gentleman told them what it was that had kept the Department from recognising more of these higher elementary schools. He believed that in December the right hon. Gentleman said there were several more applications that were on the point of being recognised, and yet to-day we stood at the point of having two——

SIR J. GORST: There are a great many more than two now. I should think certainly a dozen.

*MR. GEORGE WHITE said we had reached a dozen in twelve months out of 190 applications, and the Committee was absolutely ignorant of the reasons why the remainder had not been recognised. Rumour had it that all the chaotic condition of education in regard to science and art was caused by the ill-assorted union which had taken place between the Education Department and the Science and Art Department of South Kensington. He did not think a single educationist in the country desired to see the Science and Art Department survive one month longer than it did, but since the union the Education Department had gone back. There was formerly not much fault to be found with the administrative work so far as promptness was concerned, but since the union both Departments appeared to be as bad as the Science and Art Department was previously. He thought the Committee ought to know whether there was any unanimity of feeling and action between the two branches, or whether there was likely to be a divorce again. At present it is like a father and mother who are quarrelling, and are yet determined to live together, to the great detriment of the family they are bringing up.

The Committee would appreciate some of the difficulties with which the right hon. Gentleman had to contend in his present position. The right hon. Gentleman himself had said that we had a territorial aristocracy who were very indifferent to the interests of education, and he (Mr. White) had been struck with the cheers coming from hon. Gentlemen opposite when anything was said against the work of the higher grade schools being supported out of the rates. Probably not a few of the hon. Gentlemen opposite had had a great deal of their education from funds which they had not supplied, and he for one was democratic enough to feel for and to press the interests of the working classes being supplied from the rates in regard to higher education such as was given in the higher grade board schools. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would not be deterred by such influences, especially as he belonged to a Government which included amongst its members the right hon. Gentleman the Colonial Secretary. It was from that right hon. Gentleman and those who sat with him at that time that he got his fullest and best ideals of a national system of education a great many years ago, and, knowing the power he wielded in the Cabinet, he could not, and the nation would not, exempt him from blame if this state of things continued. He would appeal to the right hon. Gentleman to show the same interest in popular education that he had shown in the earlier part of his political career, and not to allow reactionary ecclesiastical individuals to put back the clock of education, to the great detriment of the commercial and moral interests of the country.

One word with regard to the authority of which the right hon. Gentleman had spoken. To his mind the best and most encouraging words delivered by the right hon. Gentleman to-night were the few words with which he concluded his speech in reference to one authority to deal with elementary, secondary, and technical education. He (Mr. White) was an ardent supporter of the school board system, but he was perfectly content to say—and he was speaking the sentiments of a great many educationists throughout the country—that they were not wedded absolutely to a school board management of these three branches of education. They did not feel that a school board was necessarily the best body that could be elected for the purpose. It was elected for one purpose, and if these additional duties were added it might require reforming in various ways. But he did contend that, whatever the body might be, it should be very largely, if not entirely, an elected body. The people should have a very large voice in its constitution, and then, and only then, would it have the confidence of the people sufficiently to back it in carrying on the great educational work of the country.

He could have said a word or two with reference to the influence of these Acts upon the evening schools, but he would forbear. The question was now before the Committee, and he hoped the very emphatic words of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Dartford would influence the Governemnt, so that when their Bill was proposed it might be such as all true educationists could support. He was sure he expressed the sentiments of those who felt strongly upon the question of school board education when he said that they would be willing to sacrifice some of their opinions in this matter if they could but see the three systems of education under one popularly-elected body, and that authority administering the Education Acts in an enlightened spirit to the advantage of the community at large.

Mr. HENRY HOBHOUSE (Somersetshire, E.): All who have listened to this debate with the true interests of education at heart must feel grateful at the unanimity on both sides in favour of educational reform, and at the freedom the discussion has displayed from that thin sectarian and party spirit which is apt to disfigure and delay our educational debates. The friends of the school board system have, not unnaturally, taken an early opportunity of directing attention to the condition of the law, but naturally they have found themselves somewhat in a difficulty in discussing a question which is still *sub judice*. The London School Board, rightly or wrongly, have decided to appeal to Cæsar, to the highest law court of the land, and they have the natural answer of the Government, "Unto Cæsar thou hast appealed, and unto Cæsar thou must go." I somewhat regret that they have thought it necessary to spend the money of the ratepayers in prolonging this litigation, and consequently to cause considerable delay in the deciding of a question which, after all, is not a matter for the law at all. This is a question with which the Government and this House must ultimately deal, whatever the decision is in the law courts. I think we ought to realise that difficulties have arisen in respect of these higher grade schools principally from the fact that for so many years past we have neglected to deal with this very difficult question of the organisation of the higher education of this country. The school boards, which are no doubt most ambitious and aspiring local bodies, have done their best, and I think it ought to be recorded to their credit that in many of our thickly populated centres they have filled the gap in the educational system which undoubtedly existed. They have in some places, it may be, interfered and somewhat injured the schools of other institutions, but I think we must all acknowledge that in some places where educational needs are most pressing they have erected a very useful and necessary class of schools.

That higher elementary schools, or what some of us regard as secondary schools, are required cannot be denied. Whether it is necessary to make them free or not is another question. I think we must all regret that some of the great school boards should have had recourse to such subterfuges and evasions as the Vice-President of the Council has mentioned just now. But I do not think that any jealousy on the part of local authorities ought to be allowed to retard the completion of our system of education in our large towns and elsewhere. It has been recognised on the highest authority most emphatically, and with unanimity by the late Commission on Secondary Education, that what was really required was co-ordination between the different local authorities, and this was actually carried out, not by legislation or by the action of the Government—although they have done something by the introduction of Clause 7—but by voluntary co-ordination and a coming together of the local authorities. The city of Manchester is a very striking example of this, for there the Technical Instruction Committee, the School Board, and the University College have come together, and they have decided what the limit of their respective jurisdictions should be. They have not spent their time considering how they shall cut into each other, but they have made a point of deciding how to arrange their schools so that they shall not overlap but fit in one with the other. Everybody laments this want of organisation and overlapping, and we have had some very remarkable instances this evening. Ulverston could not get a science school until three different local authorities had been brought into co-operation by the action of the central body. Such a thing is a scandal at the present day. Look at the position of the evening continuation schools in the rural districts. A great many of them have been started by the action of the county councils, but those councils have no statutory power to carry them on, and there is some doubt as to whether they are legal. They have had to give large grants of money for the purpose, because otherwise these schools could not exist. Let us take a broad view of this matter and not inquire too closely which local authority ought to be entrusted to carry on these schools. As a nation we ought to make up our minds that in this twentieth century it is necessary to have a complete system of national education, and let us have as few local authorities as possible, and do everything we can to strengthen the hands of the central department.

I am asked to vote to-day for a reduction of the salary of the Vice-President of the Council, but as far as I know he is the only gentleman on the front bench who takes any interest at all in this question. There has been a most singular absence to-night of most of the prominent members of the Cabinet. If I had been asked to vote for a reduction of the salary of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, I should have been much more ready to have gone into the Opposition lobby, because, after all, many of these educational reforms are believed in and supported by my right hon. friend the Vice-President of the Council; but his difficulty is with the Treasury. The Treasury is not quite as liberal on these educational matters as it is on some matters of reform which are perhaps more popular on this side of the House. I have no doubt that my right hon. friend would have dealt more generously with the Minute if he had had more funds. I cannot think that it is necessary to give these higher grade board schools always a scientific character. We do not want to specialise either as to commercial or scientific education, and I cannot help thinking that in this case the result of our system of science and art grants is somewhat prejudicial to general education. I hope the Treasury and all other departments of the Government will recognise that in this country education must grow, and the expenses must grow as well. We cannot afford to stand still in this matter. If no other authorities are erected to start schools of this character, then these higher grade elementary schools, or whatever they may be called, which exist largely for the benefit of the working classes and which are demanded by them, and without which our system of education will not be complete — these must be carried on, and, if no new authority is erected, then the school boards must carry them on. If the Government wish to alter this state of things the sooner they bring in their Education Bill the better. It must take a long time to discuss that measure, and we have already waited too long for it. Every year that passes increases the difficulties rather than diminishes them, and the net result of this debate will be a valuable one if it only convinces this House that legislation is sorely needed in order to bring about the only solution of these difficulties of our educational administration.

*MR. DUKE (Plymouth): As a Member who has a direct interest in this question, owing to the action of the Education Board in my constituency, I would like to join hon. Members who have spoken in pressing upon the Vice-President of the Council the great urgency there is for the introduction of some measure which will put the practical business of education for promising boys and girls of the poorer classes upon something like a business footing. Hon. Gentlemen on the other side have reproached the right hon. Gentleman and the Government with a want of sympathy with the development of the kind of education to which I have referred, because of what has taken place in the testing of the legality of the attitude of the school boards. I venture to suggest to the House that that is a great mistake, for there could not be a stronger evidence of the necessity of legislation upon this question than the decision in the Cockerton case, and the state of things which that decision showed to exist. For my part, I think the trial of the question in the Cockerton case has been a great public benefit. I think those who raised the question and challenged the legality of the proceedings of the London School Board did a public service in that respect, because it is not a satisfactory thing that the commercial and business education of a large section of the poorer part of the population should depend upon the tolerant attitude of the Education Department towards that kind of education. I am sure it is not satisfactory to the working classes in the country that that branch of education should depend upon the tolerance of any department of the Government. It must be as a matter of right and as a matter of public administration in the common interest that that branch of education shall be put upon a sound footing. Nobody who knows what has been going on in the higher grade schools will be disposed to say that these schools have not met a public necessity, and that public necessity has been aggravated by the improvement in the provision of elementary education. There was in former years, especially in the towns of the country, a class of schools which the board schools have practically put out of existence, where moderate fees were paid, and where the smaller tradesmen and business men and the better-paid class of artisans sent their children for business education, and got an education of a different kind from that which is now provided in board schools, under the direct personal influence of a class of schoolmasters who practically have now ceased to exist. That class of schools, if not practically driven out of existence, has been diminished very much in number by the severity of the competition which has been produced by the development of the board-school system. Nothing has been provided in its place.

One of the aggravating circumstances in regard to the provision of satisfactory business training for boys of the poorer class is that while you have developed the elementary schools you have done nothing to provide a substitute for those schools which the elementary schools have killed. The frightful condition of commercial education in our towns, as compared with the condition of that in Continental towns, is felt by business men everywhere to be a scandal in this country. One only needs to see the proceedings of chambers of commerce or to meet business men in order to find out the difficulties they have in obtaining satisfactory clerks with business training and commercial knowledge, to feel that the Government is not doing its duty to a large class of its constituents in this respect. We are laying up for ourselves difficulties for the future by failing to provide or to encourage a system of sound commercial education. You have at the present time an excellent system of elementary education for boys who are to be employed in workshops and in industries, and who are not expected to take an active, leading part in those employments; but you are doing nothing for the boys who are to compete with the boys of France, Germany, and America in endeavouring to maintain for this country, I will not say a supremacy, but something like an equality in competing for the commerce of the world. It has been shown by the recent decision of the courts that we have done nothing in this country in the way of making proper provision for the aspiring and capable boys of the poorer class, and for this reason one does not need to blame those who have brought forward the question raised in the Cockerton case and brought it to an issue. I regard it as a matter of very little consequence which way the Cockerton decision ultimately goes, provided that this House makes up its mind that the reproach which lies upon our present system of education shall be removed.

There was one part of the speech of the right hon. Gentleman which I listened to with great satisfaction, and which seemed to indicate that he might be placed in charge of a measure which would be devoted to sweeping away those defects which now exist in our system of education. If the right hon. Gentleman succeeds in passing such a measure into law he will confer not only a service upon this generation but upon future generations, and he will associate his name with the cause of education in a manner which will please those who know how much he has the cause of education at heart. But there was an observation which the right hon. Gentleman made, in answer to a question from the other side of the House, which I must confess disappointed me a little. At present it seems not to be known when or where the proposed measure for this improvement of the educational system will be introduced. I hope that that uncertainty will very speedily be dispelled, and I am sure it would be a source of great satisfaction to the public outside as well as to hon. Members in this House if the right hon. Gentleman would assure the Committee that we shall have certainly in the course of this session, and at a period when it can be fully discussed and its difficulties fully dealt with, a measure which will do something substantial at any rate to remove the confusion which exists in that branch of education which is proposed to be dealt with, and which will supply the link which is missing in our present educational system. One hon. Member has referred to the great expenditure upon the war, and he seemed to regard it as a matter for regret, in view of our educational necessities, that we had spent such great sums in that direction. For my part I am content that we should do all we can to find the money for all our responsibilities. I do not regret that we have spent that money in that direction, but I should regret it if I thought it was possible that people who know what are the necessities of the country at home in respect of this very urgent and pressing matter would be at all discouraged in dealing with this matter because of the obligations we have had to face abroad. I certainly shall not be disposed to vote for the proposal to reduce the right hon. Gentleman's salary. I wish to give the right hon. Gentleman a free hand in the matter, and I hope that when he introduces this Education Bill he will meet with that success which he deserves.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.): There is only one point to which I desire to draw the attention of the House; it is a matter which was referred to by the hon. Member for North Camberwell, and also by the noble Lord who represents South Kensington. We have listened with interest to the short and able speech made by the noble Lord, and we know he has a right to speak on this question, because he is a London Member. The question I refer to is the treatment of the seventy-nine higher grade schools of London. I disagree with the view which the noble Lord has put before the Committee, and I rise to support my hon. friend, who has brought forward a most pressing grievance, which is greatly felt by the people of London, which the right hon. Gentleman opposite could settle, I believe, in the way we desire, and I hope he will make an announcement on the subject before the debate closes. The noble Lord said that the Board of Education was perfectly right in this matter, because the maintenance of the seventy-nine higher grade schools would interfere with secondary education as it exists at the present time, and that it would interfere with the schools which are to be created. This is an entire mistake, for these schools are provided only for young people between the ages of twelve and fifteen. When a child passes the fifteenth year he must be taken away from these schools. The second grade schools deal with young people between the ages of sixteen and nineteen years, therefore there is no conflict between the two. We heard with a great deal of pleasure the able speeches delivered from the benches opposite, and we hope to hear many more speeches in the same spirit from the same quarter during this debate. The hon. Member who has just sat down dealt with the question of the necessity of securing a better commercial education for the children. These seventy-nine schools were intended to give a commercial training. In November, 1898, one of the Government inspectors said, in regard to one of these schools which was about to be opened, that it should be designed not only with a view to provide for science and art, but also for the teaching of modern languages and for giving a commercial training. That was in the year 1898, and that is the opinion of one of the inspectors of the Board of Education. On the 2nd of March, 1899, there was a Memorandum sent out, which drew attention to two points—namely, the lack of commercial training, and the inadequate amount of time which was given to the only modern language taken. Those recommendations came from the Education Department itself. At that time the Education Department were urging schools to give a commercial education, and now they were taking away the grant because those schools had done this. The noble Lord who represents South Kensington said that it was more desirable to give a science and art training than to give this commercial training, because it would be a much better preparation for an industrial or manufacturing career for boys and girls who would ultimately assist in those industries. But in London the great industry is commerce. That is our chief industry, and while we agree that in Manchester and other manufacturing cities the schools should provide the special training which the children want in those districts, surely we have a right to claim that in London commercial education is an absolute necessity for the children. I do not see how this could have been made the ground by the Education Department for the withdrawal of these grants. On the 27th of July last, in this House, I put a question to the right hon. Gentleman, and I got a very long answer to that question.* I then put a supplementary question, in which I asked him in how many of these seventy-nine schools he was prepared to pay the higher grants asked for by the London School Board, and the right hon. Gentleman replied, "Not one; the curriculum is of a commercial and not of a scientific nature." Therefore, for giving this commercial education all these schools are to be fined, and all the work of the London School Board in this direction is to be upset. I will give another illustration. Shorthand, typewriting, and bookkeeping have been taken up, because it was thought that an effort should be made to fit out these young people in these branches, because there was a greater demand for them; but the Education Department has singled out the London School Board for persecution, and it has done what it can to destroy these schools.

SIR J. GORST dissented.

MR. LOUGH: I do hope that the right hon. Gentleman will give us a more intelligent reply than merely shaking his head. I asked the right hon. Gentleman to deal with the Minute, and he said he would deal with it presently, and later on he made a most apologetic reference to it. The right hon. Gentleman admitted that there is a loss of £4,000 a year in London on the operation of this system, and he minimises the seriousness of that loss by saying that it was only one-thirty-seventh part of a penny. The Vice-President of the Council appeared to apologise for the treatment London has received in respect of commercial education; but why does he pursue that treatment? This is not a question of the amount of money, but it is the spirit of the Board of Education that the people protest against. You may say what you like about the Code, but I think that shorthand, typewriting, and bookkeeping should not be classed as scientific or artistic education. I hardly know where the line can be drawn between these things, and it does seem to me to be straining a point very much, first of all to urge these schools to teach these subjects, and then fine them because they have done so. We have had three elections recently—the General Election, the School Board, and the County Council election—and I noticed that the people were moved as much by the treatment of these seventy-nine schools as by any other question that was presented to them. We have been reminded that there are already seventy-nine of these schools, but that means only one school for every hundred thousand of the population. These are higher grade schools, and they should not be mixed up with the secondary schools. I want to press this question on behalf of London absolutely home on the right hon. Gentleman. We are reminded by the First Lord of the Treasury that we have twenty-three days to criticise the Government, but I venture to observe that most of that time is wasted, because our criticism is generally perfectly barren. Perhaps to-day we shall waste from half-past four to twelve o'clock to-night criticising the policy of the Government. This is a matter which is entirely at the disposal of the right hon. Gentleman.

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* See *The Parliamentary Debates* [Fourth Series], Vol. lxxxvi., page 1516.

SIR J. GORST: No, no.

MR. LOUGH: The right hon. Gentleman shakes his head. We all believe and hope that the right hon. Gentleman will be in a position to say after this debate that he was compelled by the House of Commons to yield upon this question. Are our representations to meet with no response whatever upon a practical question of this kind when there is an almost unanimous opinion expressed on both sides of the House? I will conclude by simply asking the right hon. Gentleman to consider during the remainder of the debate these points on behalf of London, and one way or another to try to do something to save from extinction these seventy-nine schools, which are doing a most useful work in the Metropolis.

*MR. TULLY (Leitrim, S.) said the debate had shown very clearly the great dissatisfaction of the country at the present state of education in this country.

Attention called to the fact that forty Members were not present. House counted, and forty Members being found present—

*MR. TULLY (resuming) said that serious complaints had been heard from both sides of the House, so that it must be a difficult thing for the right hon. Gentleman the Vice-President to perceive where he had a friend. But when hon. Gentlemen lodged these complaints ought not they to consider whether they were not equally responsible for what had happened? Much of the trouble arose from the fact that many hon. Gentlemen desired to exclude the religious element from the teaching, whilst others desired to include it. A great deal had been said about the necessity for higher education, but it appeared to him that what was really required was a good sound commercial education, which according to many of the experts who had spoken upon the question was not given to the people of this country. Typewriting, shorthand, and modern languages were all branches of higher elementary education, and if this country was to attain the educational level of Germany, France, and America, all these subjects would have to be taken up. In Germany particularly most people knew one modern language besides their own, and the neglect to teach modern languages in this country was very disadvantageous to the people. The present state of education was largely due to the persistent endeavour to drive religion out of the schools, and that had militated with special force against the Irish, who by bad government had been driven from Ireland to seek their livelihood in England, and who had had to provide voluntary schools for their children. Such schools, supported only by the voluntary subscriptions of an indigent people, could not hope to compete with board schools maintained out of the rates—to which these people also had to pay their share—and consequently the children of these poor people were unable to obtain the advantages to which they were entitled. The religious aspect of the question had been definitely settled in Germany, where there was a large Catholic population living side by side with a Protestant population. The schools in each district taught the religion of the district, and unless a similar system were adopted here, England would never obtain the same educational level as her greatest competitor.

The complaint which he had to make was the unfair way in which the Irish were treated in this matter, and it was for that reason he protested against the Vote. In any scheme that was put forward he hoped some steps would be taken to put the Irish children in this country on the same level as the English children, and that the attempt which was made in this intolerant manner to keep the Irish children down would cease.

MR. RICHARDS (Finsbury, E.) said, speaking from an experience of twenty years on the subject of secondary education, the plan which he wished to see adopted as far as possible in this country was the German, which recognised primary, secondary, and, finally, university education. That was the educational ladder which he wished to see erected by the Government. He protested against handing over to school boards the work of secondary education, for which they were not created and for which they were not fitted. He was satisfied that by pursuing the policy of either taking the town council in county boroughs or the county council in counties, or representatives of those bodies, as the educational authority, the Government were more likely to solve the educational problem than by allowing school boards to include in their curriculum subjects which were essentially within the domain of secondary education. The majority of school boards, especially in rural districts, were returned, not on educational questions, but as the result of battles between Church and the intolerance of dissent. What had been said with regard to Germany was absolutely true. They had satisfactorily solved the religious difficulty in the manner suggested, and no educational difficulty resulted.

The hon. Member for North-West Norfolk had spoken of the necessity for some authority for evening continuation schools; with that he quite agreed. He remembered once being told that a great deal of money was wasted in evening continuation schools, but the London School Board had shown that that was a fallacy. He, for one, did not grudge the money spent on the education of those who were prepared to give up their time after business to improve their position on the educational ladder. He appealed to the Government not to allow the school boards to run in opposition to the higher educational colleges established in various parts of the country, and to teach in their curriculum subjects of secondary education. He was sure it would be for the benefit of education that the work of primary education should be retained for the school boards only. Of course, he was not for a moment suggesting that the primary schools should direct their attention to primary education only. We were in need of a real system of commercial education, and that could not be obtained by what were called continuation classes. He was quite prepared to admit that they could deal with subjects which would lead to the commercial school, but they could only deal with them as specific subjects, and not on what he called the higher level of commercial education. We ought to follow the German plan, and he would recommend hon. Members to read the report of the Committee of the London County Council on technical education. Anyone who studied that report would master the systems of two or three Continental nations, and, he thought, would come to the conclusion that the German system was the best. We should establish in each of our large towns a system of commercial education, taking sixteen as the lowest age, and going up to nineteen, or even later—a three years system. He said, unhesitatingly, that was not work for any of the school boards, but for another authority. He knew one parish in Cornwall where it was actually charged against the clergyman of the parish that an effort he made to provide secondary education was only another attempt to win young men for the Church. It only showed the depth to which the sectarian spirit which was abroad in these educational matters would descend. He knew another case where a clergyman established a higher grade school in a cathedral city, and the proposal that the local authority should make a grant to the school for the teaching of technical subjects was opposed on the ground that it might be an injustice to the Nonconformists, as if it could possibly matter in the teaching of chemistry whether the children were taught by a Pagan or a Hottentot. Such was the blindness of the supporters of hon. Members on the other side that they would pursue any policy of opposition to a secondary school which had an ecclesiastical flavour about it. Until we realised that religious matters should be shut outside the educational purview we should never get on with such a system. He knew that the hon. Member for Camberwell had been attacked for his liberal views on education. He hoped the hon. Member would show that he was willing to place those broad views at the disposal of his party, and support any real scheme which the Government might bring forward. He was sure they would carry it if they remembered that in primary education they had no wish to displace the present authority.

MR. ALFRED HUTTON (Yorkshire, W.R., Morley) said the last two speeches must have cheered the spirit of the Vice-President, as they had introduced for the first time the religious and theological difficulty. The hon. Member for East Finsbury told them that Liberals and Nonconformists only sought positions on school boards in order to put an end to voluntary schools. He never knew that before. Supposing that they succeeded in getting on the boards, they were absolutely unable to achieve that object. He had always thought that "the boot was on the other leg," and that the object of the supporters of voluntary schools was, as a rule, to try to put a stop to the school boards, in order to put an end to the authority of the people.

This debate was initiated by the hon. Member for West Nottingham on a different question altogether. The matters they had had under discussion related largely to the higher grade schools. The right hon. Gentleman the Vice-President of the Council was face to face with a strong feeling in the country. It was not a party feeling. On this question there was no party view. They had men of all parties. He thought the conclusion at which they had arrived in regard to the administration of the higher grade schools for the past twelve months was that it had been absurd. The right hon. Gentleman in the early part of his speech dealt with the illegality of the higher grade schools.

SIR J. GORST: I beg the hon. Gentleman's pardon. I did not say that the schools were illegal. What I said was that the spending of the rates on them was illegal

MR. ALFRED HUTTON said he perfectly understood the distinction. Of course, it was the spending of rates upon them that was illegal. The right hon. Gentleman told them two ways to get out of the difficulty.

SIR J. GORST: Three ways.

MR. ALFRED HUTTON said he only remembered two at the moment. The first was that the school board could come to an arrangement with the local authority. The local authority had two funds at its disposal. He would ask the right hon. Gentleman, supposing the local authority had already quite sufficient engagements to meet without increasing its contribution to the school board, what was to be the position of the school board in that case? Every one of the towns instanced by the right hon. Gentleman was comparatively small in area. Take Bradford, Halifax, and Huddersfield—he believed in all these three towns the county council or town council had undertaken the control and management of the technical school. If a school board went to these authorities and told them that they were in duty bound to maintain the higher grade schools, he was afraid they would be disposed to reply that they would take their own course and see to the efficiency of their own school. The town councils of Bradford and Leeds had other engagements. They gave large contributions to the Church Institute classes. Would the right hon. Gentleman defend the withdrawing of the grants from those classes in order that the higher education schools might be maintained? It was absolutely hopeless that these schools could be maintained efficiently. These urban authorities had not the resources free and at liberty, and having sufficient engagements at present they could not assist the school board to maintain the higher grade schools. The only other solution suggested by the right hon. Gentleman which he could recollect was private subscription.

SIR J. GORST: I said they could charge fees, as they did in the early stages.

MR. ALFRED HUTTON thought the answer to that was that having once abolished fees it would be exceedingly difficult to put them on again. He did not think it would be possible to reinstate them. The third course was the Minute. When the right hon. Gentleman explained the Minute to the House of Commons a year ago,* they were told, notwithstanding all the criticisms which they ventured to offer, that the Department were making a proposal which they honestly intended should be used in the maintenance of the efficiency of the schools. He should like to read the concluding portion of the speech of the right hon. Gentleman, it was so very much to the point.

> "Now I hope that the House will believe that this Code and this Minute, which are so heartily approved by the Opposition, have been conceived with a desire to advance the elementary education of the country; that this scheme is the result of careful consideration and consultation with the best authorities available; and that the Board of Education believes that it can be carried into practical and useful effect. I hope the House will also believe that the Board of Education will watch the operation of this new policy and will be ready at once to make amendments wherever experience proves that amendments are necessary."

The Department had refused every time to vary the conditions it had laid down.

SIR J. GORST: They cannot vary the Minute without laying a fresh Minute before the House of Commons.

MR. ALFRED HUTTON said it was rather significant that the Department had always replied in the stereotyped phrase that they could not possibly hold out any hope that any changes would be made in the Minute under which the application had been made. The right hon. Gentleman went on to say—

> "I trust the House will not reject the scheme put forward by Her Majesty's Government because there are two or three provisions in it of a purely detail character which may not in all respects accord with the notions of some hon. Gentlemen opposite."

There were numerous cases in which amendments had been named, and in every case the Department had replied that they could not possibly consider any alteration in the Minute. He thought they had done worse. They had interpreted the Minute in a way that nobody could possibly have anticipated. He was perfectly aware that for many years in this country we were wofully behind other countries in matters of scientific teaching. Now we were having science run mad. Nothing but science would receive any consideration from the Government. If any other proposal was made they denied any grant or recognition at all. He fully expected when the new Code came up that they would have a regulation that no infant school would be recognised unless it was supplied with proper arrangements for the teaching of elementary science. The school boards were seeking to have something in addition, or some option, but the right hon. Gentleman was doing his best to deny it. They were not asking the right hon. Gentleman to establish a new type of school; they simply asked for some latitude; and what were the excuses offered for refusing this? In one case the Department replied that they could not recognise the curriculum proposed by the school board, because they found in it book-keeping, shorthand, and business-training. But the extraordinary thing was that while the Department refused to recognise in the curriculum of the higher grade school book-keeping and shorthand, those subjects could actually be taught under the Code in the elementary schools. The Department replied that these were to be considered outside the scope of the higher grade schools, which were to be confined to the teaching of elementary science. He thought he might say that very few boards would ever consent to bring their schools under the Minute unless some of the conditions were altered. To bring them under the Minute would be to degrade the education given, and if a board would consent to do that, he did not think their majority would be the same after the next election. People in the large towns were proud of these schools, and they were not going to have them degraded by having them brought under the grant-earning Minute which the right hon. Gentleman brought before Parliament with the promise that it would be elastic.

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* See *The Parliamentary Debates* [Fourth Series], Vol. lxxxii., page 683.

The right hon. Gentleman made one remark which he thought very unfortunate. He said the school boards were trying to make themselves the authority for secondary education. The right hon. Gentleman had no justification whatever for that statement. The hon. Member ventured to state that there was not a school board in the country that had the slightest ambition to make itself the authority for secondary education. Whether that were so or not, he felt bound to say, by way of warning the right hon. Gentleman, that in fixing upon some new authority he would be unwise to select either of the two antagonistic bodies at present in existence—the school boards and the technical instruction committees of the county councils. They were rather jealous of one another. If the right hon. Gentleman were wise, he would create some authority which would not partake of favouring either of these disputants for the honour of having charge and control of secondary education. That would prevent jealousy, and put an end to the search for some line of demarcation between elementary and secondary education. If the Government were going to pursue that will-o'-the-wisp, they would never settle education. No line of demarcation could be found.

SIR J. GORST: Hear, hear!

MR. ALFRED HUTTON said he was very glad the right hon. Gentleman cheered that statement, because they had had the Duke of Devonshire repeatedly saying that the Department was seeking a line of demarcation. He maintained that it was impossible to find one. The Department, knowing it could not find it in the curriculum, was seeking for it in the age of the students, but that was equally impossible. The only way to avoid the difficulty was to establish one authority with which all could fall into line, and which would be acceptable to the friends of the technical instruction committees on the one hand, and to the school boards on the other.

*MR. GRAY (West Ham, N.): The general tone of the speech of the right hon. Gentleman filled me with deep regret. There was only one statement with which I found myself in complete agreement, and that was the statement with which he closed his speech in reference to the necessity for having one authority controlling all forms of education. Even with regard to that his view is apparently not the view of the Government, as he says the Government is to introduce a Bill upon which the House will have an opportunity of settling this question without the guidance of the Government. The Bill is to be introduced in such a form that the House shall settle for itself——

SIR J. GORST: I said nothing of the kind. What I said was that on the Bill the Government would introduce Parliament would have an opportunity of raising these questions and getting a Parliamentary decision upon them. I never said the Government would introduce a Bill without guidance.

*MR. GRAY: If Parliament is to have an opportunity of raising the questions, that generally implies that the questions are not in the Bill when it is introduced.

SIR J. GORST: Oh, no.

*MR. GRAY: I am glad my right hon. friend excludes that interpretation. I should be much more satisfied if the Government will screw up its courage at last, and come down with a scheme of one authority for all forms of education. I use the words "screw up its courage" advisedly, because although we were told in 1896 that this thing was essential, and in 1897 that the Bills they introduced were patching measures, designed to prepare the way for a final scheme of reform, yet the years which have since elapsed have witnessed no progress in the movement inside the House, while the country outside is clamouring for a settlement. Year after year, on the Education Estimates, the Vice-President of the Council declares that this thing is necessary, and I am driven to the conclusion that it is simply on account of lack of courage on the part of the Government that we do not get the measure.

The speech of the right hon. Gentleman to-night filled me with surprise. I understood that the object of this debate was to obtain from the Vice-President a clear interpretation of the policy of his Department with regard to the Higher Elementary Minute. He failed to give any such interpretation. That policy has been inconsistent from the first day to the last. Will the right hon. Gentleman himself get up and defend it? I think not. Can he explain the principles upon which the Department is acting now? The explanation he gave at the commencement of this debate is totally different from the explanation put before the Committee when the Minute was before us. Is he not aware that amongst these school boards, a large number of which are composed of Church people, with majorities of what are called "Moderates," as well as among all people interested in the education of the children, there is a feeling of deep anxiety as to what he would say this evening with regard to higher elementary schools. They started in May last with considerable hope; they saw a prospect of the schools called higher elementary schools being legalised. We were told that the object of this Minute was to legalise these particular schools. To-day we are told that it was in order that the organised science schools might be safeguarded in view of the possible decision of the courts in the Cockerton case.

SIR J. GORST: That is what I said in May last.

*MR. GRAY: The right hon. Gentleman says that is what he said in May last. Perhaps I may venture to quote. What was the difficulty in May last? I was present throughout the whole of the debate, and the circumstances are very vividly before my mind. The block grant had been introduced, and that lobby was full of gentlemen who were trying to get the Government to withdraw the block grant on account of the mischief it was said it would inflict upon certain of the higher class schools. That block grant was in jeopardy; it was saved by the introduction of the Minute. The hon. Member for Cambridge University coupled the block grant of the Code with the Higher Elementary Minute in one and the same motion, and we went through the lobby in support of the Government on the double question—the Higher Elementary Minute, the natural corollary of the introduction of the block grant. The block grant did not inflict the slightest shadow of loss or injustice upon the higher grade schools. It did not touch the higher grade schools by so much as the one-thirty-seventh of a penny at which the right hon. Gentleman estimates the injury in certain large towns. That one-thirty-seventh of a penny is not a very great loss to the ratepayers, but it represents a very large loss indeed to the 200 or 300 children who would have taken advantage of it, not only in board schools but in voluntary schools also. What are the facts of the case? The hon. Member for Cambridge University used these words:—

> "It is also objected that the 22s. grant—"

that is, the new block grant—

> "did not adequately reward those schools which have hitherto been teaching some higher subjects over and above the ordinary elementary work."

That is not the higher grade schools.

> "Such schools, which may have been earning a 25s. or 27s. grant, will be losers."

Those are not higher grade schools; they are the higher standard schools, the higher divisions in some of the schools where a grant of 25s. or 27s. had been earned before the introduction of the block grant. He went on to say—

> "These schools may be obliged to give up their higher teaching."

Now mark the next statement:

> "If the Code stood alone that objection would have force. But the new Code has been supplemented by the Minute of the Board of Education of April last,"

supplemented, as he went on to explain, to meet the very case of these higher standard schools where a grant of 27s. had been earned in the past, and not to meet the case of the higher grade schools at all. The right hon. Gentleman may say that he is not responsible in any way for what his colleague in the representation of Cambridge University may say. Unfortunately for that line of argument, in his own speech the right hon. Gentleman says—

> "I think the very lucid and clear exposition of the Code and Minute by my hon. friend and colleague the Member for the University of Cambridge would have put Members of the House of Commons in possession of all the views of the Government upon this subject."

I have always regarded that, as I am sure the great majority of Members on both sides of the House in the last Parliament also regarded it, as fathering the exposition of policy given by the hon. Member for Cambridge University. It was perfectly clear to all of us that this Higher Elementary Minute was to meet the case of the schools which were to be hit by the introduction of the block grant. But what do we hear to-night? That it is not to meet the case of those schools, but the case of the higher grade schools. In the early part of his speech the right hon. Gentleman said there were two or three forms of higher grade schools. He went on to explain that there was the form in which the teaching of the ordinary Code subjects was followed, and that there was a large number of these schools. These were not organised schools of science; they taught the ordinary subjects of the Day School Code; and then he said, "These can go on." He dismissed them in the most airy fashion. I want to know how they are to go on without the money they are expecting to get out of this Higher Elementary Minute. These schools were, from the point of view of the ratepayers, and also from the public point of view, not only necessary but carried on on the most economical lines. What can be more ruinous than to have three or four children in one school, half a dozen in another, and a dozen in another, stopping for two or three years, demanding the attention of special teachers, and being taught special subjects? What can be more expensive than a system of that sort? These higher standard schools took all these children and grouped them together in one school, devoted the whole of their teaching to upper standard work, and relied on getting the higher grant of 27s. per child. These schools could not continue to exist, when the block grant system was introduced, but for the safeguard of the Higher Elementary Minute. To-night we learn that these schools are not to look for any hope under the Higher Elementary Minute. They are not to continue the work they have been doing for years; their only chance of getting assistance from the central treasury is by becoming organised schools of science. Nothing can be more disastrous than to try to cast the whole of these schools into one mould. I always thought these higher elementary schools were to resemble *Les Ecoles Primaires Supérieures* in France, with their three years course, and that the children stopping two or three years would take just those subjects which would fit them for the walk they were going to follow in after life. They can specialise at that age to some extent. I have seen the schools in excellent working order——

SIR J. GORST: In France?

*MR. GRAY: Yes, in France. I spent several days only a fortnight ago in some of these French schools; they were doing good work, and, as far as one could judge in a rapid glance, producing excellent results. They were not insisting on all the children following a scientific course in the first year. In the first year the children all take the same general line of study; in the second year they are divided into three sections—the literary, the industrial, and the commercial; and in the third year they mark still more emphatically the amount of time they should spend in the year on either industrial, commercial, or literary subjects, according to the walk of life they are going to follow later. It may be said that that is specialising at too early an age. But the great majority of those children will never go a step further; they are going to leave educational work when they have finished their course at the school. If they have no chance of specialising before leaving what are they to do? In Bradford they want the boys in their offices as commercial clerks; where are they to get the early stages of their training? According to the policy of the Board of Education they are to get it in the school of science.—[AN HON. MEMBER: There is an excellent grammar school in Bradford.]—Yes, at which fees must be paid, and in which the greater portion of the study is not commercial but literary, from which the children may come out with a good literary education, and yet be only fitted to starve as clerks at £50 a year. I want to see introduced in our English schools a system of training which will induce the children to look upon manual labour as an honourable calling. But you do not get it by making all the schools organised science schools. Why should you not have book-keeping for a lad thirteen or fourteen years old? If you have an advanced course of organic chemistry, why not a course in French or some other modern language? Are all these children going to earn their living in the manufacturing departments of the State? Are they all going to be mechanics? We are training a large number of our children in the primary schools to do the manufacturing of the article, but we are training hardly one for the distribution of the article when made. All over the country merchants are lamenting this defect in our national system of education. It would be all very well to talk about specialising at a later date, that it could be postponed until the children got to the secondary schools, but for the one fact that a very large percentage of the children can never have an opportunity of going to a secondary school, and unless there is something in the way of specialisation in these schools you have not only done no good to those children, but you have done them a great deal of harm. You ought to be able to judge at fourteen years of age what the parent proposes to do with the child. In some schools I have visited the head teacher's time is largely occupied in advising parents as to the walk of life a child should follow, having carefully noted the aptitudes of the child in school and the liking it has for special branches of study. I thought we were going to have under the Higher Elementary Minute schools of the description I have mentioned; the very name encouraged that hope. Now we are told it is to safeguard the higher grade schools.

I should like to go a step further with regard to these higher elementary schools. It has been argued all the evening as if none but school boards were able to establish these schools. What about half the children of the country? What about the 2,600,000 children who are still attending voluntary schools? Are these to have no opportunity whatever? Said the Vice-President very airily, "These schools can go on." Yes, legally they can go on, but they cannot go on without the necessary money. If the right hon. Gentleman withdraws the support of this Higher Elementary Minute, these schools must of necessity close their doors. As far as voluntary schools are concerned, there are two courses open: to transfer their children to the board schools and seek the support of the rates, in order to keep the higher elementary school going, or to abandon all hope of a child attending a voluntary school getting this slightly higher form of education. I beseech the Committee not to run away with the idea that this is secondary school training. Go into the schools and see them at work; look at the work in the higher elementary schools across the water; judge for yourselves whether that is secondary school work. Recollect the homes these children come from, their limited vocabulary when they start, the difficulties they have to contend with. It is absurd to suggest, except in a very few cases indeed, that anything in the nature of real secondary education can be given to such children before the age of fifteen. The Swiss would laugh at the idea of this being secondary education. They look upon it as an essential feature of their primary school life. In many countries they would refuse to let the child leave school earlier, insisting on the whole burden of its education being thrown upon the State, and insisting upon the child staying at school until it had passed through this course in the higher elementary school.

Now I turn for one moment to the question of the higher grade schools—the organised science schools. I hope the right hon. Gentleman did not intend to leave the impression, but I am bound to say he left it on my mind, that these schools had been established by fraud. We had case after case quoted where school boards had applied for loans to build schools, giving an assurance that they were to be elementary schools and organised science schools, and then, having obtained the loans on these conditions, they used the school solely as an organised science school. It sounded very much like a charge of fraud, of obtaining loans under false pretences. I hope the right hon. Gentleman did not intend to convey that impression; but, if so, if these school boards were fraudulent in their intentions, the Board of Education connived at the fraud, aided and abetted it, published documents, quasi-official, encouraging boards to carry on this work, suggesting to them that it was their obvious duty to establish these schools; and I believe I have been out with some of the officials of the Department to the opening of higher grade schools, when no words could be too flattering of the authority for the excellent way in which they were discharging their public duty. I have heard it over and over again, and I agree with the flattery, or rather the praise; I agree that these authorities are doing their duty. If they were not, what would the ratepayers have done with them at the next election? They would have thrown them out of office. These are popularly-elected bodies. One would imagine that they were bodies which held office contrary to the wishes of the local ratepayers. The establishment of the great majority of these higher grade schools has been the subject of keen criticism and contest at school board elections. The people, if any, to condemn are not the members of the school board, but the electors who put them into office. The electors are primarily responsible for every higher grade school in existence.

When the Vice-President was referring to these schools he gave us one or two instances in which he said these loans had been obtained under false pretences —cases in which, having obtained the loan, they then established a science school. Somebody asked him to give the figures showing the proportion of science and elementary scholars respectively in the school. I will give the figures in one or two instances. I believe one of the schools referred was at Hanley, where under the conditions set forth the school was established, and, said the right hon. Gentleman, "What did they do? There were 309 scholars receiving scientific instruction in that school." Perfectly true; but I think he ought to have added that in the same building there were 279 children receiving the ordinary elementary instruction. Therefore it seems to me that they were fairly keeping the conditions. Another case mentioned was that at Leeds, in which the conditions were laid down and said to be violated, and we were told there were no less than 204 scholars taking the scientific course. Yes, but surely we ought to have been told that in addition there were in the same building no less that 737 children taking the ordinary elementary school course. Therefore, I suggest that the conditions under which the loans were obtained were not violated. If I take the total of fifty-nine of these so-called organised science schools, I find 11,800 scholars in the science section, and no less than 26,099 in the elementary section, so that the great majority of the scholars are still doing the ordinary elementary school work, and the remainder are taking the scientific course.

I do not propose to weary the Committee except with one word more. I am tired of trying to get any progress in the administration of the Department. What do I find? Why, at the General Election a few months ago Member after Member, on this side of the House as well as on that, set forth in paragraph after paragraph their desire to see rapid progress in popular education. Speeches were made by Conservative and Unionist candidates, in favour generally of the Imperialistic policy of the Government; but if the word "education" were ejaculated by some enthusiast in the meeting the reply was—"Yes, I am all in favour of progress in popular education." No sooner do we get in this Chamber than the desire to see progress vanishes. [Ministerial cries of "Oh, oh."] Well, if the desire for progress in this matter has not evaporated, then I hope that hon. Members will soon have an opportunity of showing their zeal. This debate to-night has been worth the having if only for the speech which we have heard from the right hon. Member for Dartford. But what he has said in the House to-night on this question has been said here and in the country scores of times, and yet we cannot get this question settled. Public meetings attended by the clergy and the bishops of the Church have all clamoured for this reform, and voluntary school managers declare that in spite of all their endeavours in the past few years they cannot keep going much longer. Only yesterday another case came into my hands of a London school which was shut up because it was found impossible to carry it on any longer. The same cry is coming from one end of the country to the other. Owing to the vacillating policy of the Education Department we do not know what next year may bring. It has been said that it is necessary to draw a clear line of demarcation between primary and secondary schools, but you would not need that if you had one local authority. A great waste of money, waste of effort, and waste of time is characterising the existing system. There is needless overlapping, and a struggle is going on between the secondary and technical authorities and the school board and the voluntary schools for the body of the same child, in order to drag that child into this and that school simply to get the grant per head that is paid by the State. If Parliament will but give us a single educational authority in each county council area, that local authority will take precious good care that there is none of this overlapping. Such a reform would destroy three-fourths of the existing jealousies, for it would then be nobody's interest to keep a child in a particular school, but it would be everybody's interest to put a child in that school in which it would be best taught.

I am appealing for no one sect, but for the training of these children upon whom the future of this great Empire depends. There is a great commercial contest going on between the great nations, and you are doing nothing to meet it. We know how much the intelligence of a battalion affects results on the battle field, and we hear that it is necessary that our soldiers should be better trained. Why not give them this chance in the day school? Why should those parents who want to keep their children at school until they are fifteen years of age not have the chance of doing so? At all events, if the locality is prepared to do this, do not let the Government hinder them, and if their action happens to be illegal, then I say that it is the first duty of the Government to come to Parliament for that legislation which will enable a locality to carry out its own desire.

SIR JOSEPH LEESE (Lancashire, Accrington): I wish to call the attention of the House to the summary dismissal of teachers without them having any opportunities of appeal or any chance of reinstatement. I remember that in the last session of Parliament, in the year 1900, I put a question to the right hon. Gentleman the Vice-President of the Council, asking him if he would bring in a Bill making the Board of Education the final court of appeal in such matters as this. I remember that he promised then to bring in a Bill the following session. Then there came the General Election, and in the short session of December last I put down another question, and he promised me another Bill this session. And I am sorry to say that when a question was put the other night he gave the same rather evasive answer. My reason for rising to-night is simply and solely to ask him to regard this matter as one of pure justice and not as a party question.

SIR J. GORST: I cannot allow the hon. Member to say that I gave an evasive answer upon this subject.

SIR JOSEPH LEESE: I said "a rather evasive answer," but I will withdraw it.

SIR J. GORST: I said that my noble friend the Lord President of the Council in December last authorised me to say that the matter would be dealt with in the present session. My noble friend is still of the same mind. The matter will be dealt with, but whether it will be dealt with by minute or legislation is still under consideration. My hon. friend the Member for West Ham accused me of saying one thing last year and another thing this year. The only way to defend myself against this charge is to inflict upon the Committee a passage from a speech which I made on 3rd May, 1900. I then said—

> "You have school boards who have established excellent higher-grade schools, whose work I have always spoken of in terms of the highest eulogy, and school boards are now supporting those schools in an illegal manner out of the school funds. What, then, is to be done? This Minute affords an opportunity of placing these schools on a legal and legitimate footing, and although there may be some higher-grade schools which will stand out and take the chance of the law courts, yet I believe the great majority of these schools have hailed with satisfaction the publication of this Minute, and that they will convert themselves into higher elementary schools so as to put their proceedings on a proper and legitimate footing."

The majority of the great school boards boycotted the Higher Education Minute and resolved, particularly as the Science and Art Department were continuing to pay the grants, to wait for the final judgment. A few of the boards have come in, and Sheffield and Salford and some others have converted their schools into higher elementary schools; but the majority of the boards are holding out until the final judgment, and then I have no doubt that a very large number of them will come in.

The hon. Member for Halifax asked me three questions. The first was why 17s. 6d. was still imposed upon evening continuation schools. That is a question for the Treasury, and not for the Board of Education. With regard to the question of the attendance of children at evening continuation schools, I will do everything in my power to make regulations by which the evening continuation schools shall be real continuation schools, but I am most reluctant to allow even for six months a wretched child to attend all the day at the day school and all the evening at the evening school. I think that if a child of tender years has attended properly to school in the day-time it is almost cruel to expect that child to attend at an evening school as well. As to the question of physical instruction in evening schools, I can assure the House that I am as eager as any hon. Member to see that the children, both boys and girls, have proper physical instruction.

The hon. Member for West Islington, the hon. Member for North Camberwell, and my hon. friend the Member for West Ham have all been extremely zealous in regard to the case of commercial education generally. My idea of a commercial education differs somewhat from theirs, but I do not doubt that they are genuine in their zeal, and I hope that they will be equally generous to me and believe me when I say that I am not trying to destroy our education or the commercial schools by the policy we have adopted. My idea of a commercial education is not satisfied by merely teaching typewriting and shorthand to boys of ten to fourteen years of age. That is not my notion of a commercial education. Book-keeping as a branch of arithmetic is a very proper subject, and there is no obstacle to its being taught; but typewriting of course is a mere technical accomplishment, and so is shorthand, and I do not think, considering the short time there is for general education, that the time of the children should be devoted to teaching them a merely technical art.

The hon. Member for North Camberwell was good enough to weary the House by quoting a number of passages from the speech which I made some years ago at the Mansion House, but his quotations do not fairly represent my views. What I said was that the only way by which you can have a good commercial education is by establishing it upon a sound general elementary education, and between the ages of ten and fourteen years the children ought to be undergoing their general education; and to attempt to specialise and teach them what is called a commercial education is merely a waste of time, and will produce results which will be of no value whatever. I should like to be allowed to say on this subject that this question of specialisation in education is one which has exercised very much the attention of those who look upon education from a philosophical point of view. If anybody takes the time and trouble to do what I have had to do as part of my duties, that is to visit the educational exhibits at the late Paris Exhibition, he will have been struck by a very remarkable divergence between the northern Teutonic and Anglo-Saxon races and the Southern races, like the French and the Italians. The universal principle of the Northern races is general education and the general development of intelligence up to a comparatively late age, and no specialisation before sixteen or seventeen. That principle is carried out, too, in a most remarkable way in America. America is a practical country, a commercial country, a manufacturing country, where everybody is looking to "the main chance," and yet these unphilosophical and practical Americans do not attempt to specialise in any way whatever until a comparatively late age. They do not prepare the child for a particular walk in life, but they give it a general education which is calculated to develop all the faculties of mind and body, and then for the first time they begin to specialise. But that is not so in France, and my hon. friend has been speaking about the French schools. In France, as in Italy and the Southern countries generally, they attempt very early to teach the children what we call something useful. That is to say, at a very early age they begin to give one kind of instruction to a child who is going to be an agricultural labourer, another kind to a child who is going to be a clerk, and so forth. In this way the children are prepared for the course in life which they are expected to follow. It is a very remarkable thing, but I was told by the people with whom I conversed at Paris that the result of the Exhibition had been to very much shake the faith of the French educationists in their own system, and they were very much more inclined to adopt the American system of general education, which was, in the main, the English system of not specialising. That is the policy which the Board of Education have been pursuing in this country in relation to these higher elementary schools for which we have been so severely handled. The idea of the higher elementary school is that it should be a school giving a general education calculated to develop the faculties of the boys and girls between ten and fourteen. I think that is a very early age to specialise.

Then some hon. Member has talked about these schools being pure schools of science. The amount of science which is required in the higher elementary school is four hours per week for the first two years, and six hours per week for the last two years, half of which is to be practical work. That is not more science than can be reasonably acquired in an ordinary general education. There are twenty-five hours in the school week, and, therefore, twenty-one or nineteen available for other than scientific subjects. It should be remembered that it is not the same science in every school, for there is a great variety which can be taught. The teaching of science is a matter in which there can be an enormous amount of variety. Therefore you have twenty-one hours at the disposal of the school managers for other subjects in the first two years, and you can devote it to your own English language, or even to shorthand and bookkeeping. You can teach both shorthand and bookkeeping, though I regret enormously the time which school boards devote to those subjects. Then why, it is asked, are not these large grants given to the ordinary higher grade schools? The Department is tied by its duty to Parliament. There is no power to give these large grants in the Higher Elementary School Minute to any school which does not teach subjects outside of the Elementary School Code, and there is no Parliamentary authority to give grants for anything outside the Code but scientific subjects. The general idea of Parliament is that literary education is provided for by very large endowments, that technical education is provided for by the whiskey money which comes out of the Consolidated Fund, and that science and art and elementary education are provided for by the annual grants of the House of Commons.

Mr. ASQUITH (Fifeshire, E.): You can modify the Code.

Sir J. GORST: Yes, we can modify the Code, but until it is modified it must be observed. Suppose that a higher elementary school is started for teaching boys between twelve and fourteen some special commercial subject such as the Spanish language, for instance. Let me point out this fact. There is another authority in the district which is empowered by Parliament to teach modern languages, and which has Exchequer money given to it by this House for the purpose of enabling it to teach them. What is really proposed is, that having set up a technical instruction committee, say, in the borough of Bradford, for the purpose of teaching Spanish and having the power to teach the Spanish language, we are to set up another authority to teach Spanish which is to receive a large Exchequer grant. Therefore, we should have two schools at Bradford drawing pupils from one another and competing for the same students. It is the most monstrous confusion that you can possibly conceive. I do not think that the hon. Members who are so zealous for a commercial education have any idea of this. If instead of agitating for these higher grants you will take the children of the higher grade schools and teach them within the four corners of the Code all the subjects which the Code allows you to teach, and in that way give them a sound general elementary education, when those children arrive at the age of fourteen or fifteen and leave the elementary school, then they are exactly in the condition to receive a special commercial education. If the school boards would give up the idea of keeping the children out of the secondary schools and instead of this prepare them for the secondary schools, and after they have left this course of study, then send them into secondary schools to receive technical education in one, and commercial education in the other, I think you would have your children very much better educated than you will if you persist in keeping the children out of the secondary schools. In this way you give the children the advantages of a much wider education. It is not the hon. Members opposite alone who are zealous for the poor man's child. We are trying to do what is best for his child, but you want to keep the poor man's child perpetually in a school of his own. We want him to mix with the rest of the population, and we want the cleverer of the children of the working classes of this country to mix with other children and with other boys and girls, so that they can ultimately find their way into the universities. Everybody knows how many of the distinguished men in the universities of the land and in our scientific societies have sprung from the ranks of the people. You can never promote the real higher education of the people by shutting them up in a separate school of their own. You want to mix all classes together, and give scholarships and exhibitions by which the best and cleverest children of the working classes can find their way to the universities, and it is in that way only that you will perpetuate that system which has made this country as great as it is.

*MR. MATHER (Lancashire, Rossendale): Any hon. Member who has looked at the crowded Strangers' Gallery to-night must have noticed the intense interest which is taken in this subject by the country as a whole. The old lassitude and lethargy connected with this great subject seem to have passed away. It has passed away not on purely academic grounds, but owing to a fear, which is becoming intensified as the years roll on, that Great Britain stands in danger among the great nations of the world as regards her future during the next twenty-five years. The right hon. Gentleman opposite has used arguments and uttered sentiments which do not appear to me to be quite consistent the one with the other. None of us, I think, on this side of the House, or on the other side of the House, will dispute the fact that the American system of general education for all classes of the community, from the bottom to the top, is the most perfect and symmetrical plan by which the human mind can be trained intelligently for the purposes of life. All classes join together in this system of education. They meet at the primary school, they meet at the grammar school, and pursue their way to the higher schools, and many of them find their way to the colleges eventually. You find under the American system all classes of the community mingling together, and nothing in my opinion is better calculated to make a nation truly great in all its aims and objects than that the children should be educated on the American plan. That is precisely the plan that we advocate on this side of the House, and which many hon. Members on the opposite side desire to see carried out and adopted in England. But to do this you must adopt the American authority, and the American authority is a universal school board in every city of the country. There is scarcely a single exception in all the areas of city life in America where the school board is not elected to take charge of education from the bottom to the top, and it takes entire control. Education is afforded without money and without price to all ranks and classes of the community through public taxation. If that were the system established in this country, none of us would object, but we have cause to complain now of the way in which our children are trained under dual authorities. Under the American system the children pass from the primary school upwards, and if that system was adopted in England, we should have an educated people in a comparatively short space of time. The interest taken in this discussion this evening will make itself felt not only with the Committee, but certainly throughout the entire country, as marking a new departure in the great question of education.

I understand that we are about to have introduced during this year many new things. At any rate the Government of the day have promised certain reforms in several directions. But of all the reforms which appear to be most necessary for the salvation of the country, in my opinion and in the opinion of many others who have studied this question for many years, a reform in our national education stands the first; and it also stands the first in the estimation of the country. In the discussion of this great national question we have had an empty Front Ministerial Bench, and rather a small attendance in Committee, but the interest outside in this question has been manifested to-night by the very large number of the public present here. I believe that next Friday we are to have another reform introduced into this House in connection with the Army. Upon that occasion the Front Bench opposite and all the benches in the House will be crowded, and it will be difficult to get a seat in the House. But I maintain that this question of national education should precede all other reforms, because even Army reform depends for its efficiency upon educational reform. I do ask the right hon. Gentleman to take it most seriously into his consideration, because it must be evident from what he has heard during the debate to-day and from his own experience outside, that at least the people of this country have come to the conclusion that we can no longer face the future upon the basis of that want of intelligence and that inadequate provision for general education which we have been passing through during the last twenty-five years. We are thankful for the small progress achieved, but that has only made us feel more acutely than ever what a vast difference there is between the advantages of the working classes in this country and those enjoyed by America and Germany when they come face to face with the real purposes of life. I am a large manufacturer, and we engineers of England are in a position to compare our industry with those large industries carried on on the other side of the Atlantic and in Germany. It must be within the knowledge of every Member of the Committee that during the last ten years there has been a gradual encroachment upon all the industries for which this country was distinguished in former years. Our supremacy has been challenged and undermined. This has not happened for want of natural resources, or for want of coal, iron, copper or other raw materials which we obtain from all parts of the earth by a splendid development of the shipping interest. The difficulty is that the human material is not as competent now to deal with the scientific and industrial problems of the day as it was twenty-five years ago. The rest of the world has gone ahead, and has got into line with us, and even passed us in many industries. Those engaged in scientific industries naturally ask why it is that we cannot maintain this supremacy in the future; why we fear the competition of to-day. There is only one palpable reason, which stares us in the face all the time, and that is the lack of that cultivated intelligence amongst the industrial classes which is necessary to enable us to carry on our industries in the scientific manner which the world demands in all directions. Only the other day I came across a remarkable illustration of this point. I was asked to obtain an English chemical analyst for a large manufacturing firm abroad, and after looking round for weeks, I could only find four who were in any sense competent to come up to the necessary requirements. On the other side of the water I could have found scores where I could only find one here. That kind of thing disheartens industry when looking to the future. I will ask the right hon. Gentleman, if he doubts my experience, or the results of it, to consult any large employer of labour, engaged in any scientific industry in this country, and he will find that one and all of them experience the greatest difficulty in getting proper human material to face the great problems which have to be met. I think that is the greatest obstacle to our maintaining the supremacy which we formerly held amongst the nations of the world.

For these reasons, is it not the duty of the Government to throw aside all other considerations, and give all that we require for the reform of our national system of education? The right hon. Gentleman stated in regard to the 17s. 6d. limit that the matter depended upon the Treasury. Any Government worthy of the name that wishes to meet our enemies not only in the field but also those in our own household—any Government capable of recognising the signs of the times and which desires to meet these enemies, surely ought to regard national education as one of the most important questions to which it could devote the money of the people. The Treasury should be made to feel this, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Prime Minister, the Leader of the House, and the gentlemen who rule the destinies of the nation, should recognise the fact that we at least on this side of the House are willing to bury the hatchet of discord so far as all the minor differences of a national system of education are concerned, and are willing to support the Government as we did in the passing of the Technical Instruction Bill of 1889—which would never have passed but for our action on this side of the House. We are willing to go with them and justify their action in our constituencies, if they will only give us the chance by establishing once and for all a system under one large authority, without making any lines of demarcation to differentiate between the education necessary for the working classes and for the middle classes of the country, and all classes up to that stage of culture to which some of them may aspire later on. I have done what I could in my business to encourage the spirit of education among parents, for I have stipulated that in my works no apprentice shall be taken under sixteen years of age who has not undergone a regular course of higher instruction. Age alone cannot be the test. You cannot differentiate between the ages of fifteen and sixteen. Elementary science should be a subject of common and general education in our primary schools, and to teach something of the laws of nature is to make a child understand the A B C of science. There is no difficulty about explaining to a child the nature of the atmosphere he breathes, or the manner in which we obtain water by means of a pump, or the difference between a vacuum and air pressure, or the forces of nature. All these things meet him through the ordinary course of his life, and they can be brought before him in the schoolroom at the age of fourteen or fifteen just as well as they can be at the age of eighteen.

I earnestly press upon the right hon. Gentleman to take it from the Committee's attitude to-night that we are really in earnest. I have never heard the House of Commons so much in earnest as it has been to-night on this great question of national education. Outside the House the right hon. Gentleman needs no proof that the country is aroused upon this important matter. We have the example of other nations before us. It is a matter for irony for us to be now discussing what the English nation requires in education for her future destiny. We are the oldest nation of the world in the modern sense of the word, and should be the most advanced. The right hon. Gentleman has now a splendid opportunity, for the House is ready and more than eager to support him in every way it can, and if he will only make the Cabinet understand how much in earnest the House is, and still more the country, then I think we shall have reached a very happy period in our history. A new reign has just dawned upon us. We have a new monarch and a new Parliament, and we have entered on a new century. Let it be recorded in our history that this was a time when a new national system of education was established throughout the length and breadth of the land, and then I believe the country will once more rise to great achievements.

*MR. BOND (Nottingham, E.) said that in the earlier part of the debate his right hon. friend the Member for South Aberdeen gave an account of the way in which the higher grade schools came into existence. Those who were acquainted with the history of this educational movement knew that here and there up and down the country it began by pressing education beyond the standards of the Code, which it was perceived could be got through by children of average ability long before the time at which it was desirable that they should leave school. The consequence was that schools began to be established which had since been known as higher grade schools. It was recognised that when they got beyond the standards of the Code they could no longer use the rates for the support of those schools, and the result was that though the children were still kept in the buildings the education was supposed to be paid for partly by fees, partly by the grants from the Science and Art

Department. Subsequently, however, the fees were diminished, and in some cases entirely abolished. The grants of the Science and Art Department were diminished or were less easily obtained, and the consequence was that schools of this kind, established to meet a real want, found themselves obliged to carry on in a manner which in the earlier stage of their existence they would have considered to be illegal. Then there came a still further development in the schools of the great northern towns. In London, where the higher grade schools had only lately been developed, the object of establishing them was not so much to fill an ascertained gap in education as to increase the prestige of the School Board, and really enter into competition with existing secondary schools. That had happened to his knowledge to a very large extent, and the difficulty in the matter was that the masters conducting the higher grade schools were naturally desirous of keeping the children in the schools instead of willingly relinquishing them to the secondary schools, to the detriment not only of the education of the children, but to the great detriment of the secondary schools. Children were now kept at the higher grade schools until they were about fifteen, and then because it was found that they would have a better chance of obtaining certain kinds of employment if they came from a secondary school they were sent to such a school for what was thought to be a finishing year. That was bad for the education of the children and disadvantageous to the secondary schools.

There were two great things to be considered in connection with the matter. One was that the Act of 1870 was intended to provide for the elementary education of the great mass of the people —labourers, artisans, soldiers, policemen, and the men filling the lower ranks of the Civil Service. At what age would such people begin to earn their livelihood? Was it possible in the conditions of our social system—even though he thought it desirable—that such children as those for whom the elementary system of education was devised could remain at school beyond the age of fourteen? He heard with great interest the statement of the hon. Gentleman opposite about not taking apprentices into his works until they were sixteen. But from the way in which the hon. Gentleman announced the fact he evidently regarded it as exceptional. Elementary education was now free, or practically free, and the question was whether the Committee was prepared to go any further in the direction of making education, to a higher degree, gratuitous? The higher grade schools had one great attraction in the eyes of parents, and that was that no fees were payable at them—at least in London. Another difficulty was the comparative lateness of the age at which scholars now entered the secondary schools. That was a real danger to education. They were not at liberty to treat education as consisting of a number of different stages, like a house of cards. Education properly understood was a much more serious matter than that. It was a matter of organic growth, so far as it could be secured, of drawing on the child stage by stage, from subject to subject, and in the end turning him out as complete a social instrument as he could be turned out having regard to the time he remained at school. He confessed that the situation presented very great difficulties. School boards and schoolmasters and mistresses in elementary schools, actuated no doubt by very laudable motives and desirous of doing their very best for the education of the children confided to their care, had departed from the plain course prescribed for them by the Elementary Education Act, and had unquestionably encroached on the field of secondary education. They did it in many cases with the assent, approval, and recognition of the inhabitants of the districts in which the development had taken place, and with the left-handed recognition of the Education Department. Now that the illegality of such action was being discussed, they were confronted with what was certainly a difficult, delicate, and awkward question. The schools which had been established were doing good work, and work which met with the approval of the bulk of the inhabitants of the districts where it was being carried on. It would be extremely difficult to shut them up altogether, and he himself thought that the conclusion which had been arrived at by some of the speakers in the debate was a right conclusion, and that the only way of getting a really satisfactory system of education, which would provide necessary instruction up to the age of about sixteen, was to establish either one central authority or several local authorities to deal with the whole subject. There were however immense perils and difficulties in that plan. They could not remodel their education system in that way without a very large increase of expenditure. Hon. Members on both sides seemed prepared for that, but no hon. Member had given any figures to indicate what the cost would be. At present education was practically free up to the age of fifteen or thereabouts.

If they wished to go further, and provide State education for children remaining at school until the age of seventeen or thereabouts, and to eliminate the unhappy jealousies which had prevailed for a long time between the elementary and secondary schools, the only way to proceed, so far as he could see, was to fall back on some such plan as had been suggested. He hoped that when the Bill which had been promised was introduced it would be found to contain provisions for the consolidation of education authorities in different districts, so that the entire system from beginning to end might be worked harmoniously on a definite plan.

MR. ASQUITH: I shall not detain the Committee for more than two or three minutes. As this has been such a remarkable debate, it may be desirable before we proceed to a division for one to endeavour to summarise its main features. It is certainly the first time in my experience of the House of Commons in which practically a whole evening, nominally devoted to a Vote on Account embracing all the branches of the Civil Service, has been entirely occupied by the one topic we are engaged on. We hear a great deal, rightly and justly, about the necessity of reforming some of our public Departments, the War Office, and so on; but I think the manner in which the House has occupied its time to-night is the most significant proof the country could have that we look on the reform of our educational system as coming first and foremost. I think, without any distinction of party, we may recognise that as a hopeful sign, because it shows that not merely has the debate been contributed to almost equally by both sides of the House; not merely that we are full of hope and desire for the future, but that we are animated by what I conceive to be a just and legitimate apprehension as to our existing educational position.

My hon. friend the Member for Rossendale, in his speech a few minutes ago, and speaking with his long experience as a large employer of labour, emphasised in, I think, not at all accentuated or exaggerated terms, the enormous danger to which the industries of this country are exposed, not from any falling off in the energy or even in the intelligence of either our capitalists or labourers, but from the superiority in methods of training which have been adopted by our leading competitors in the industrial world. For the first time in the history of this country, indeed in the history of the world, the exports of a foreign country during the last twelve months have exceeded our own, and if ever there were an occasion when it was time for us to look round and put our educational house in order that occasion has now arrived. There is also another point which has found ample expression during the course of this debate, and that is that whatever differences we may have had in the past or may have in the future—and I do not in the least disguise or minimise their importance—as to the position of denominational schools on the one side and board schools on the other, there is a certain neutral ground in the direction of educational improvement on which all parties in this House may meet. The greatest educational reform which has taken place in our time was carried out under the conduct of my right hon. friend—I mean the providing of free education in our primary schools. That was a matter on which there was no division of party opinion, and the measure was carried into law practically with the consent of all parties. There is another illustration, not perhaps so wide-reaching in its effects, but not to be ignored—I refer to the Technical Instruction Act of 1899. That Act, I am sorry to say, was circumscribed in its extent, but it has already produced, and will, if largely extended, continue to produce, the foundations of a system of technical education throughout the length and breadth of the country. Having regard to the manifest indications of a universally dominating interest in this matter, and to the willingness of all parties in the State to co-operate in the solution of it, cannot the Government give us this year—they have an unexampled opportunity—a chance of making a really large step forward?

There are two measures to which I desire particularly to refer. The first is what may be done by legislation, and the other is what may be done by administration. As regards legislation, I think it is universally acknowledged that the time has come when we may really take a practical step towards the attainment of what has long been an educational ideal—namely, the co-ordination of our various systems of primary, secondary and more developed education into something like a harmonious and logical system. Speaker after speaker has pointed out to-night that a clever child, the child with brains, who has passed through a primary school, finds himself in the next stage very much handicapped by want of adequate provision for his more developed education, and very often cut short at a time when, if he had proper facilities and opportunities, he might be able to develop his education to a degree which would make him a really efficient worker in the development of the industries and science of the country.

That is a matter of course as to which we must suspend our judgment until we see the scheme of the Government, but I want to lay even still greater stress on the necessity and urgency of a reform which does not depend upon legislation at all, but which could be carried out to-morrow by a stroke of the Vice-President's pen. There are a number of children who have reached the age of twelve or thirteen, and who from the necessities of the case—the circumstances of their parents and so forth—can probably never hope to mount up the higher rungs of the educational ladder, or obtain the advantages which a secondary and more developed system of education would provide. If the law is to be interpreted in the sense in which it has been interpreted by the Courts, these children will be left absolutely stranded during two of the most important and critical years of their lives. Having passed the sixth or even the seventh standard, and being still at a school age, and in the elementary schools, they will be left absolutely stranded and compelled to go without any further education. Well, I say to the Vice-President and to His Majesty's Government, if they will modify and mould the Code issued from Whitehall so as to continue the facilities which are now provided in the higher branches of elementary schools, but of which they are threatened to be deprived, they will provide for this class of children, who really may not have another chance in their lives, the only possible means of developing their minds and faculties and making them capable and efficient citizens. That is absolutely within the power of the right hon, Gentleman to-morrow, if he wishes to exercise his statutory rights to bring it into effect. I earnestly hope and believe that the debate to-night will supply an impulse and incentive to the Government to carry out these two steps, and I hope that such a favourable opportunity will not be lost.

MAJOR RASCH (Essex, Chelmsford) said he did not pretend to be an expert in educational matters. In the agricultural districts education was sometimes regarded as a great advantage and at other times as an unmitigated nuisance, but he did not propose to express his own views on the subject. He only wished to say that he desired to support the view put forward by the hon. Member for Accrington with reference to the security of the tenure of teachers in elementary schools. The teachers were subject to irresponsible Boards, and if they went to church or to chapel, if they played the organ or refused to play the organ, or accepted the eastern position, they were liable to dismissal and had no appeal. All they asked was that there should be an appeal to the county councils or to the Vice-President himself. For the last year and a half he and other hon. Members had been pressing the matter on the Vice-President of the Council without the slightest effect; they only received the usual official answer that the matter was being considered. When the right hon. Gentleman was asked a supplementary question, he only said his answer was veracious. It was, however, uncommonly unsatisfactory. The right hon. Gentleman said just now that the question was under consideration, but if the Duke of Devonshire could not make up his mind in a year and a half with reference to such a simple question—well, he did not deserve to be where he was.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 130; Noes, 225. (Division List No. 38.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.
Allan, William (Gateshead)
Allen, Chas. P. (Glouc., Stroud
Ambrose, Robert
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert Hy.
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bell, Richard
Boland, John
Boyle, James
Brand, Hon. Arthur G.
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, George M. (Edinburgh)
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Burke, E. Haviland-
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caine, William Sproston
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter
Crean, Eugene
Cullinan, J.
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Delany, William
Donelan, Capt. A.
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, James H.
Elibank, Master of
Emmott, Alfred
Evans, Sir F. H. (Maidstone)
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir W. (Derby Co.)
Fuller, J. M. F.
Gilhooly, James
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert J.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Richard Burdon
Hammond, John
Hardie, J. K. (Merthyr Tydvil)
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Chas. H.
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (Bristol, E.)
Holland, William Henry
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson, E.
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Levy, Maurice
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Crae, George
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Govern, T.
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Laren, Charles Benjamin
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Mather, William
Morley, Charles (Breconshire)
Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipp'ry, Mid.)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pirie, Duncan V.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, Robert John
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Reddy, M.
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Roche, John
Roe, Sir Thomas
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, Charles E.
Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfarsh.)
Smith, H C (North'mb. Tyneside
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer, Rt Hn C. R (Northants.
Stevenson, Francis S.
Sullivan, Donal
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thomas, F. Freeman-(Hastings
Thomson, F. W. (York, W.R.)
Tomkinson, James
Trevelyan Charles Philips
Tully, Jasper
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)

Tellers for the Ayes—Mr. Yoxall and Mr. Alfred Hutton.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, Augustus Hy. Eden.
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arrol, Sir William
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r.
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W (Leeds
Balfour, Maj. K. R. (Christch.)
Banbury, Frederick George
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benj.
Beach, Rt. Hn Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Bull, William James
Butcher, John George
Carlile, William Walter
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc.
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Chapman, Edward
Churchill, Winston Spencer

Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Collings, Right Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Chas. Ready
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Cook, Frederick Lucas
Corbett, A. Cameron(Glasgow
Cranborne, Viscount
Cross, Herb. Shepherd(Bolton)
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Cust, Henry John C.
Davies, SirHoratioD.(Chath'm
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Dimsdale, Sir Joseph Cockfield
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dorington, Sir John Edward
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir Wm. Theodore
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir WilliamHart
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fergusson, Rt. HnSirJ.(Manc'r
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir R. Penrose-
Fitzroy, Hon. Edward A.
Forster, Henry William
Gibbs, Hon. V. (St. Albans)
Gordon, Hn. J. E.(Elgin&Nairn
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)
Gordon, MajEvans-(T'rH'ml'ts
Gore, Hon. F. S. Ormsby-
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon. Geo. Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Greene, SirE. W.(Bury St. Ed.)
Greene, HenryD.(Shrewsbury)
Gretton, John
Groves, James Grimble
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, RtHnLordG(Midd'x
Hamilton, Marqof(L'nd'nderry
Hardy, Laurence(Kent, Ashf'd)
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, F. Leverton(Tynem'th
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Arthur H. (Hanley)
Heath, Jas. (Staffords., N.W.
Helder, Augustus
Hermon-Hodge, Robert T.
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hoare, Edw. B. (Hampstead)
Hobhouse, Hy. (Somerset, E.)
Hope, J. F. (Sheff'ld, Brightside
Hoult, Joseph
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hutton, John (Yorks, N.R.)
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Kennedy, Patrick James
Kenyon, Hon. G. T. (Denbigh)
Kenyon, James (Lancs., Bury)
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop)
Keswick, William
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Knowles, Lees

Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawrence, William F.
Lawson, John Grant
Lee, CaptA. H(Hants, Fareh'm.
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leveson-Gower, Fred. N. S.
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
Long, RtHn. Walter(Bristol, S.)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis(Lowestoft)
Lucas, R. J. (Portsmouth)
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred

Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Calmont, Col. J. (Antrim, E.)
M'Killop, James(Stirlingshire)
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Markham, Arthur Basil
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfriessh.
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Milward, Colonel Victor
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Mooney, John J.
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
More, Robt. Jasper(Shropshire)
Morgan, DavidJ(Walthamst'w
Morrell, George Herbert
Morris, Hon. Martin HenryF.
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, ArthurH. A. (Deptf'rd)
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)

Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Nolan, Col. JohnP. (Galway, N.)
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease, H. Pike (Darlington)
Peel, Hn. Wm. Robt. Wellesley
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Randles, John S.
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Charles Bine
Rentoul, James Alexander
Ridley, Hn. M. W. (St'lybridge)
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Ropner, Col. Robert
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, John
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seely, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, E.)
Smith, James P. (Lanarks.)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Stock, James Henry
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf. Univ.
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Tufnell, Col. Edward
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Wason, John C. (Orkney)
Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E (Tauntn
Whiteley, H. (Ashton-u.-Lyne)
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset)
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wills, Sir Frederick
Wilson, A. Stanley(York, E.R.)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Commander(Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

Original Question again proposed.

It being after midnight, and objection being taken to further proceeding, the Chairman proceeded to interrupt the business.

Whereupon Mr. A. J. BALFOUR rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 220; Noes, 117. (Division List No. 39.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, Augustus Hy. Eden
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r.
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W. (Leeds
Balfour, Maj. K. R. (Christch.)
Banbury, Frederick George
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt Hn. Sir. M. H. (Bristol
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Blundell, Col. Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Bull, William James
Butcher, John George
Carlile, William Walter
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W (Derbyshire)
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J (Birm.
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r
Chapman, Edward
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Cook, Frederick Lucas
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Cranborne, Viscount
Cross, H. Shepherd (Bolton)
Cubitt, Hon. Henry

Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Dimsdale, Sir J. Cockfield
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dorington, Sir John Edward
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir Wm. Theodore
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin

Fardell, Sir T. George
Fergusson, Rt Hn. Sir J. (Manc'r
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
Fitzroy, Hon. Edw. Algernon
Forster, Henry William

Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin & Nairn
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)
Gordon, Maj Evans-(T'r H'ml'ts
Gore, Hon. F. S. Ormsby-
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred

Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, Sir E W (B'ry S Edm'nds
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
Gretton, John
Groves, James Grimble
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G. (Mid'x
Hamilton, Marq of (L'nd'nderry
Hardy, L. (Kent, Ashford)
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, F. L. (Tynemouth)
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Arthur H. (Hanley)
Heath, Jas. (Staffords., N. W.
Helder, Augustus
Hermon-Hodge, Robert T.
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hoare, E. Brodie (Hampstead)
Hobhouse, Hy. (Somerset, E.)
Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside
Hoult, Joseph
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hutton, John (Yorks., N. R.)
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)

Kearley, Hudson E.
Kenyon, Hn. G. T. (Denbigh)
Kenyon, James (Lancs., Bury)
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop)
Keswick, William
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Knowles, Lees

Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawrence, William F.
Lawson, John Grant
Lee, Capt A. H. (Hants, Fareh'm
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leveson-Gower, Fredk. N. S.
Long, Col. C. W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt. Hn. W. (Bristol, S.)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. F. (Lowestoft)
Lucas, R. J. (Portsmouth)
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred

Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Calmont, Col. J. (Antrim, E.)
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire)
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfriessh.)
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Milward, Colonel Victor
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
More, Rbt. Jasper (Shropshire
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow
Morrell, George Herbert
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)

Murray, Chas. J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlingt'n
Peel, Hn. Wm. Rbt. Wellesley
Pemberton, John S. G.
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Randles, John S.
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Charles Bine
Rentoul, James Alexander
Ridley, Hn. M. W. (Stalybridge
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, John
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alex.
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seely, Chas. Hilton (Lincoln)
Sharpe, Willian Edward T.
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, H C (North'mb. Tyn's'de
Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Hn Arthur (Ormskirk)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stock, James Henry
Sturt, Hon Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G (Oxf'd Univ.
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Tufnell, Col. Edward
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Welby, Lt-Col. A. C. E (Taunt'n
Whiteley, H. (Ashton-U.-Lyne
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wills, Sir Frederick
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Commander (Berks, E.

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir William W
Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.
Allan, William (Gateshead)
Allen, Charles P (Glouc., Stroud
Ambrose, Robert
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Asquith, Rt Hn. Herbert Henry
Bell, Richard
Boland, John
Boyle, James
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, George M. (Edinburgh)
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Burke, E. Haviland-
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter
Crean, Eugene
Cullinan, J.
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Delany, William
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, James H.
Elibank, Master of
Emmott, Alfred
Evans, Sir Francis H (Maidsto'e
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fuller, J. M. F.
Gilhooly, James
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Richard Burdon
Hammond, John
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Patrick James
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Jos. F. (Accrington
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Levy, Maurice
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Crae, George
M'Govern, T.
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Laren, Charles Benjamin
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mather, William
Mooney, John J.
Morley, Charles (Breconshire)
Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
Murphy, J,
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipper'ry Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pirie, Duncan V.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, Robert John
Reddy, M.
Rickett, J. Compton
Roche, John
Roe, Sir Thomas
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, Charles E.
Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfarsh.)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer, Rt. Hn. C R (Northants
Sullivan, Donal
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thomas, F. Freeman-(Hastings
Thomson, F. W. (York, W. R.
Tomkinson, James
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Tully, Jasper
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North
Whitely, J. H. (Halifax)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE
Mr. Herbert Glads t
Mr. Causton.

Original Question put accordingly.

The CHAIRMAN named the Tellers :—Ayes, Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther : Noes, Mr. Yoxall and Mr. Broadhurst.

MR. BOYLE (Donegal) : As a new Member of the House, I rise to a point of order——

*THE CHAIRMAN : Order, order ! The House must clear for the division. I must ask hon. Members to proceed to the division lobbies.

[A minute later.]

*THE CHAIRMAN : I must ask hon. Members to be kind enough to proceed to the division lobbies.

MR. M'HUGH (Leitrim, N.) : We will not divide.

MR. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.) : May I be permitted to point out that we feel it our duty to protest against the manner in which all the Irish Votes have been closured without a single Irish voice having been heard.

*THE CHAIRMAN : Order, order ! It is not possible to go back on the decision of the House. The House has already decided that the question should be put, and it is my duty to put it.

AN HON. MEMBER : And it is our duty not to divide.

*THE CHAIRMAN : It is impossible to carry on this discussion.

MR. FLAVIN : The Irish Members have got no chance of speaking.

*THE CHAIRMAN : Order, order ! If the hon. Members decline to proceed to the division lobbies, I must report the circumstances to the Speaker.

Mr. M'HUGH : Bring in your policemen, but we are not going to divide.

The Chairman thereupon directed the doors to be unlocked in order to report the matter to the Speaker.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

*The CHAIRMAN : Mr. Speaker, I have to report to you, Sir, that during the course of the division on the question which I was ordered to put by the House as a result of the division upon the closure, a certain number of Members of the House declined to leave their seats and to proceed into the division lobbies. I requested them more than once to proceed, but I gathered from the observations which fell from these hon. Members, or some of them, that they declined to proceed. Thereupon I thought it was due to the House, in the position in which we found ourselves, that I should follow the precedent which had been set on a former occasion and ask you, Sir, to return to the Chair. It was impossible for me, Sir, to see all the hon. Members who declined to leave their seats, but I may say that among those whom I was able to observe were the Members for South-East Cork, North Kerry, South Tipperary, North Meath, North Leitrim, East Limerick, North-East Cork, West Cavan, East Tyrone, South Fermanagh, East Cork, and West Cork.

Mr. JOYCE (Limerick City): And the Member for Limerick City.

Mr. NANNETTI (Dublin, College Green): And the Member for College Green.

*Mr. JOHN O'DONNELL (Mayo, S.): And the Member for South Mayo.

Mr. KENDAL O'BRIEN (Tipperary, Mid): And the Member for Mid Tipperary.

*Mr. SPEAKER : The order having been made for clearing the House, it is the duty of every Member, in accordance with that order, to clear the House for the purpose of a division. I must remind hon. Members that they are breaking the rules of the House in not clearing the House for a division. I must ask them whether they still persist in refusing to leave the House ? [Severa: Hon. Members : We will not.] I name you, Mr. Crean, Mr. Flavin, Mr. Cullinan, Mr. White, Mr. M'Hugh, Mr. Lundon, Mr. William Abraham, Mr. M'Govern, Mr. Doogan, Mr. Jordan, Captain Donelan, Mr. Gilhooly for wilfully obstructing the business of the House and disregarding the authority of the Chair.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR : I move that these Gentlemen be suspended from the service of the House.

Motion made, and Question put, "That the said Members, Mr. Crean, Mr. Flavin, Mr. Cullinan, Mr. Patrick White, Mr. M'Hugh, Mr. Lundon, Mr. William Abraham, Mr. M'Govern, Mr. Doogan, Mr. Jordan, Captain Donelan, and Mr. Gilhooly be suspended from the service of the House."—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

The House proceeded to a division.

Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther were appointed Tellers for the Ayes, but no Member being willing to act as Teller for the Noes, Mr. Speaker declared that the Ayes had it.

*Mr. Speaker then directed the said Members to withdraw.

Mr. FLAVIN : You have named me, and I refuse to leave the House.

*Mr. SPEAKER : The Serjeant-at-Arms will see that the orders of the House are obeyed, and that adequate force is used if it becomes necessary to compel the hon. Member. I must call the names of the hon. Members in order, and I must ask the messengers to see that they are removed if they will not withdraw. I call on Mr. Crean to leave the House.

Mr. CREAN (Cork Co., S.E.): I respectfully decline, Mr. Speaker.

*Mr. SPEAKER : I must ask the Deputy-Serjeant to see that Mr. Crean leaves the House.

Mr. CREAN : I will not leave.

*Mr. SPEAKER : Then the hon. Member must be removed by force out of the House.

Mr. Crean was accordingly removed.

*Mr. SPEAKER: I must ask Mr. M'Hugh to leave the House.

Mr. M'HUGH: I refuse to go.

*Mr. SPEAKER: This scene is as distressing to an Englishman as it can be to any Irishman.

Mr. M'HUGH: Why are we gagged?

*Mr. SPEAKER: I appeal to the hon. Members to have some respect for the dignity of the House to which they belong.

Mr. M'HUGH: We are absolutely defiant, and we will defy even the Chair and the Government.

Mr. FLAVIN: May I point out, Sir, that in your absence a Vote of seventeen millions of money was closured without a single Irish Member having taken part in the discussion?

Mr. M'Hugh was removed.

*Mr. SPEAKER: I must ask Mr. Patrick White, who is one of the Members I have named, to leave the House, and I appeal to him to leave it peaceably,

Mr. PATRICK WHITE (Meath, N.): I shall not leave the House.

*Mr. SPEAKER: Then the hon. Member must be removed.

Mr. Patrick White was removed.

*Mr. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny): Before this unpleasantness proceeds any further I am, speaking for myself, very anxious that some way out of the difficulty should be found. I sympathise with the protest of my hon. friends, and if a way out is not found, then the same course as that which we have just witnessed will have to be gone through with every Member on these benches. I would appeal, if I may, through you, Sir, to the Leader of the House, and ask him if he would not let the matter now end. I think that by allowing the House to be now adjourned, we might meet in a better temper all round to-morrow. If that suggestion cannot be adopted, then I see no other alternative to every Member on these benches being forcibly removed. I hope you will see your way to offer some suggestion, Sir.

*Mr. SPEAKER: The only suggstion that I can possibly make is that hon. Members, whether they agree with the course that has been taken in the House or not, should respect the order of the House first. An order having been made and a division called, and the hon. Members having been named for refusing to proceed to the lobby, they should retire from the House decently. A protest may be made on a proper occasion, but their duty now is to retire peaceably.

Mr. Cullinan (Tipperary, S.), Mr. Doogan (Tyrone, E.), Captain Donelan (Cork Co., E.), Mr. William Abraham (Cork Co., N.E.), Mr. Gilhooly (Cork Co., W.), Mr. Lundon (Limerick, E.), Mr. McGovern (Cavan, W.), Mr. Jordan (Fermanagh, S.), and Mr. Flavin, having refused to obey the order of the Speaker to leave the House, were removed.

*Mr. SPEAKER: The House will now resume its proceedings in Committee, and I hope that, if it is found necessary to take a division, and hon. Members are asked to leave the House, they will do so in accordance with the order of the Chair.

The House again resolved itself into Committee:—

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. W. J. Lowther in the Chair.]

Original Question put, "That £17,304,000 be granted on account for the said Services."

The Committee proceeded to a division.

Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther were appointed Tellers for the Ayes, but no Member being willing to act as Teller for the Noes, the Chairman declared that the Ayes had it.

It being after midnight, the Chairman left the chair to make his report to the House.

Resolution to be reported to-morrow.

Committee to sit again to-morrow.

House adjourned at Ten minutes after One of the clock.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Wednesday, 6th March, 1901.

Another Member took and subscribed the Oath.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

MORTON CARR DRAINAGE BILL.

"For amending certain provisions in force with respect to the Morton Carr Drainage, in the county of Lincoln; and for other purposes," read the first time; to be read a second time.

ALDERSHOT GAS AND WATER BILL

CALEDONIAN RAILWAY BILL.

CRAWLEY GAS BILL.

DUBLIN ST. JAMES' GATE BREWERY TRAMWAYS BILL.

GATESHEAD AND DISTRICT TRAMWAYS BILL.

GRAVESEND GAS BILL.

GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY BILL

HORLEY DISTRICT GAS BILL.

LEATHERHEAD GAS BILL.

LONDON, TILBURY, AND SOUTHEND RAILWAY BILL.

SOUTH METROPOLITAN GAS BILL.

WELLS WATER BILL.

Read a second time, and committed.

PETITIONS.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (HIGHER GRADE AND EVENING CONTINUATION SCHOOLS).

Petitions for alteration of Law, from Bromley; Reading; Sunderland; Gravesend; Hebden Bridge; Halifax; Plymouth; Burslem; Holyhead; Normanby; and Ashton-under-Lyne; to lie upon the Table.

POOR LAW OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1896.

Petitions for alteration of Law, from Levenshulme; Hammersmith; Coventry; and Barton Regis; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Manchester; Doncaster; York; West Ham; Temperance Union of the Society of Friends; Glasgow (two); Greenock: Millom; and Driffield; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Greenock; Ayr; and Fraserburgh; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

QUEEN ANNE'S BOUNTY.

Copy presented, of Annual Report and Accounts of the Governors for the year 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS (EXCESSES), 1899-1900.

Copy presented, of Statement of the Sum required to be voted in order to make good Excesses on certain Grants for the year ended on the 31st March, 1900 [by Command]; Referred to the Committee of Supply, and to be printed. [No. 77.]

SUSPENSION OF MEMBERS (5TH MARCH).

Mr. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): I desire, Mr. Speaker, to bring under the notice of the House a question of privilege arising out of the painful scene which took place here last night. It will, Mr. Speaker, be within the recollection of the House and yourself that a number of hon. Members of this House were reported to you by name by the Chairman of Committees as having disregarded the authority of the Chair by refusing to take part in a division. In this report to you by the Chairman of Committees certain hon. Members were named and were subsequently suspended from the service of the House, and they were removed by force. The question of privilege which I desire to raise is that several of those hon. Members were reported to you, Mr. Speaker, by the Chairman of Committees as having disregarded the authority of the Chair, without proper steps having been taken to identify them, and in the removal of those hon. Members violence was used of a character——

*Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order! It is not a question of privilege which the hon.

Member is raising; it is purely a question of order. If the hon. Member has any definite point of order to raise, or has any question to put as to something that was out of order, I will answer him. This is not a question of privilege upon which he can base a motion nor upon which he can make a speech.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: I am very sorry that, unfortunately, I was not in my place last night when the scene took place, but I have noticed by the report in the papers of what took place that you, Mr. Speaker, stated—if you are correctly reported—that a protest against what had taken place could subsequently be made. What I desire to bring under the attention of the House is that, as a matter of order as well as a matter of privilege, although I would claim it as a matter of privilege—— [Ministerial cries of "Order, order!"] The question I rose to ask is in regard to the names reported to you of certain Members who were reported to you without proper steps having been taken to identify hon. Members. As a matter of fact, I have satisfied myself that some of the hon. Members who have been suspended had actually gone into the division lobby to take part in the division before the scene arose in the House. This is a matter of such grave importance affecting the right and privileges of the Members who have been suspended that I think an opportunity ought to be given to me of raising the question now.

*MR. SPEAKER: It is clearly not a matter of privilege as it stands at present, but a question of order. If there is any instance of the kind mentioned by the hon. Member in which any hon. Member has been reported to me wrongly, and if there has been a mistake, then the proper course would be for the hon. Member to communicate with me—and I regret he did not take that course last night—and inform me that, in point of fact, he did not refuse to leave the House and take part in the division. I am quite certain that the House will not desire to proceed with this matter at the present moment until the hon. Members alluded to have communicated with me. I am quite sure that the House will at once remedy the mistake if it has occurred.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): With all due respect to you, Mr. Speaker, I beg to submit that this is really of very vital importance. I will put this question. I am speaking of two concrete instances of two colleagues who are known to myself. If an hon. Member of this House is removed by violence from this House——

*MR. SPEAKER: There is no question of privilege at present before the House. The hon. Member is now proceeding to comment again upon the proceedings in the House, and he is out of order.

MR. DILLON: Surely I am entitled, as any hon. Member of this House is entitled, to submit to you a question on a point of order, which is a question of privilege. If you rule that it is not in order, I shall accept your ruling without question, but I think I am entitled to submit my case.

*MR. SPEAKER: I have already said that it is not a question of privilege. If, after I have given a ruling on the point, I allow this question to be raised again by the hon. Member, I do not know where it will end.

MR. DILLON: I may be stupid in this matter, but it does seem to me that the question which I wish to raise has not been accurately raised by the hon. Member for Waterford, who spoke before me; and I think the House of Commons might, in a case of this kind, listen to me for a few minutes. The particular case I want to raise is not the case of the hon. Members who refused to leave the House last night, but the case of two hon. Members who stopped me when I was coming into the House and asked me to bring their case under the notice of the Chair. They inform me that they went into the lobby, and were afterwards forcibly removed with violence by the police. I am not in the least desirous of questioning your ruling, Mr. Speaker, but I think that I am entitled to a clear ruling upon this point. My point is this: if an hon. Member of this House who has not in any way infringed the rules of order, by error on the part of the Clerk of the House who has wrongfully reported his name to you and to the Chairman, is removed by violence by the officials of the House and debarred from taking part in the debate, is that not a question of privilege which may be raised by a colleague when the hon. Member alluded to is debarred from attending here to state his own case before the House ?

*MR. SPEAKER : I do not know what are the facts which the hon. Member states. Does the hon. Member say that two of those hon. Members who sit on those benches, whom I requested to leave and who refused to leave, were removed by violence ? Is he speaking of their case ?

MR. DILLON : No, Mr. Speaker. My complaint is that two hon. Members stopped me when I was coming into the House to-day, and stated that yesterday when the division was called on they went into the lobby to vote, but when the doors were unlocked and the names reported one of the Clerks of the House took their names down as having disobeyed the ruling of the Chair, and reported them to the Chairman. I therefore put it to you, Sir, whether that is not a question of privilege, and whether I am not entitled to raise the case of these two hon. Members, who are now wrongfully debarred from coming into the House, as a question of privilege ?

*MR. SPEAKER : No ; for this reason : the Chairman of Committees reported to me that those hon. Gentlemen were present, and refused to go into the lobby, and the House has ordered their suspension. They are prevented from coming here. If they will communicate with me and state to me what the facts are, then the matter may be brought before the House. At the present moment it does not seem to me that it is in a position to inquire into this matter unless the hon. Members themselves make these allegations.

MR. DILLON : With all due respect, Mr. Speaker, the two hon. Members I allude to have commissioned me to make this application on their behalf, for they stopped me at the outer door as I was coming down to the House. I have always understood that a question of privilege must be raised immediately. What are these two hon. Members to do ? May I communicate with them again, and, if they authorise me with a written communication to raise this question, shall I be allowed to deal with it as a question of privilege ? I understand that if you do not raise a question of privilege immediately, you are then debarred from raising your point. This is one of the most serious questions of privilege.

*MR. SPEAKER : If the hon. Members referred to will communicate to me their precise statements upon the matter, then the House will deal with it.

AN HON. MEMBER : How can they communicate ?

MR. JOHN REDMOND : Under the circumstances of your ruling, Mr. Speaker, which I do not desire to question, I will ask the permission of the House to move the adjournment of the House "to call attention to a matter of definite and urgent public importance—namely, the action of the Chairman of Committees in reporting to you certain Members of this House as refusing to take part in a division and disregarding the ruling of the Chair, without proper steps having been taken to identify them, and the application of violence to certain Members of this House."

*MR. SPEAKER : That resolution cannot be moved now, because it has been held over and over again that any question affecting the ruling of the Chair, or calling into question the action of the Chair, must be raised upon a substantive motion of which notice has been given, and it cannot be done upon a motion for the adjournment of the House.

MR. JOHN REDMOND : That means precluding any possibility of raising this question at all this session, unless the Government see their way to give us an opportunity. I will ask the First Lord of the Treasury, in view of the grave importance of the question which affects the rights of Members who allege that they were wrongfully treated in the matter, whether he will give the House an opportunity to discuss it.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.) : The ruling, Mr. Speaker, which you have just given practically amounts to this : that the House will have an opportunity of discussing this question as a matter of privilege as soon as the hon. Members who think themselves aggrieved have communicated with yourself in a proper manner, and the facts are laid before the House; then the House may discuss it.

*MR. SPEAKER: That is so.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: If that be, as is intimated to me from the Chair, an accurate statement of Mr. Speaker's ruling, it is clear that the opportunity which the hon. Gentleman desires will be given without the intervention of the Government as soon as the facts are laid before Mr. Speaker, and it will then be open to discussion.

MR. DILLON: It is exceedingly important that we should know where we are. Your ruling, as I understand it, is that when you have received a communication from the two hon. Members to whom I have referred it will be competent for us to discuss a question of privilege; but will that only be a question of privilege as applied to those two hon. Members?

*MR. SPEAKER assented.

MR. DILLON: I understand that to be your ruling. I should like to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he considers that a full discussion of the whole incident? Anybody who has had any experience in this House of debates on questions of privilege knows that the rules of order are very tightly drawn, and we shall be absolutely confined to the discussion of the grievances of those two hon. Members, in regard to whom the question of privilege is raised, and we shall not be in a position to discuss the whole incident.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I understand from the question of the hon. Gentlemen the Member for Waterford that what he desires is an opportunity of discussing the case of these two hon. Members who regard themselves as being aggrieved. That opportunity will be granted as a matter of privilege as soon as the hon. Members have communicated with Mr. Speaker. Now the hon. Gentleman desires that an opportunity should be given for discussing what has occurred to the other hon. Members who were

suspended. I am considering that, and also what means may be taken to prevent its recurrence. I think it is possible—but I make no statement at present—that I shall be able to make a statement within a few hours regarding an opportunity being given to discuss both questions.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: Perhaps I ought to read again the terms of my motion, for the right hon. Gentleman is under a misapprehension. The motion I asked leave to make had reference to the action of the Chairman of Committees in reporting to you, Sir, certain Members of this House as refusing to take part in a division without taking proper steps to identify them, and the application of violence to certain Members of this House. I hope that if we do get an opportunity of considering the possibility of preventing the recurrence of these scenes in the future, the right hon. Gentleman will take into account in that connection the inadvisability of attempting to closure after one night's debate a Vote of £17,000,000.

*MR. SPEAKER: The Clerk will now proceed to read the Orders of the Day.

MR. POWER (Waterford, E.): On the point of order, Sir——

*MR. SPEAKER: It is too late.

MR. POWER: It is on a point of order. Mr. Speaker.

*MR. SPEAKER: I have already called on the Clerk to read the Orders of the Day.

AN HON. MEMBER: We did not hear what you did call.

POLICE SUPERANNUATION (SCOTLAND) BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order for Second Reading read.

MR. JOHN WILSON (Falkirk Burghs): The Bill which I have the honour to introduce is intended to remedy what has been felt ever since the passing of the Police Act of 1890 to have been an injustice and an anomaly so far as the police force of Scotland is concerned. In that year the then Lord Advocate brought in a measure for the superannuation of constables in Scotland, and in introducing it he laid great stress upon the arduous nature of their duties, and upon the importance of attracting to the force a good class of men, and pointed out that the prospect of a suitable retiring allowance, depending as it did upon good conduct and on a good record, would undoubtedly have the desired effect. So far so good, but unfortunately this Act, though a step in the right direction, placed the Scottish police in a position of considerable inequality as compared with their English brethren. The English Bill passed with very little alteration, whereas the Scottish Bill was very much changed, to the serious disadvantage of the Scottish police.

And now I must ask the patience of the House while I endeavour to explain the difference between the two Police Acts. The English Act gives very large discretionary power to the local authorities in determining the qualifying periods of service and the rates of pension. It gives the option of adopting any scale of pension between the maximum and the minimum scales fixed by the Act, and it gives the option of adopting an age qualification for a pension. The result is that the police authorities in connection with the larger forces, where many years experience had been acquired in the working of superannuation funds, have adopted the maximum scale of pensions without an age limit, and the authorities which had adopted an age limit and a medium scale of pensions gradually abandoned that position, so that at present the maximum scale of pensions in the English Act, without an age limit, is the rule generally throughout England. What is now proposed for Scotland by this Bill is that the conditions of service and rate of pension should be the same as in England. The English Act gives power to a police authority to fix an age limit and also any scale of pensions between the following minimum and maximum limits. If a constable has completed fifteen, but less than twenty-one, years approved service he gets, in case of infirmity of mind or body, an annual sum of not less than one-sixtieth nor more than one-fiftieth of his annual pay for every completed year of approved service; from twenty-one to twenty-five years service, a pension of not less than twenty-sixtieths nor more than twenty-fiftieths of his annual pay, with an addition of not less than two-sixtieths nor more than two-fiftieths for each completed year of service, above twenty, always, of course, upon a medical certificate of infirmity; above twenty-five years an annual sum of not less than thirty-sixtieths nor more than thirty-one-fiftieths of his annual pay, with an addition of not less than one-sixtieth nor more than three-fiftieths for every year above twenty-five years service, so that the pension shall not exceed two-thirds of his annual pay. But in the Scottish Bill these discretionary powers were deleted, and the period of service when a constable could retire on pension on a medical certificate was fixed at twenty years, and the fixed scale of pensions was reduced below the minimum in the English Act, and an age and length of service limit fixed, which make the prospect of a pension so remote as materially to lessen its value, seeing that only a small proportion of the men are likely to earn the maximum pension. Previously to the passing of the Act the police authorities, in many cases, granted better *ex gratia* allowances to men who were forced to retire through infirmity than the pensions under the Act. In England a constable is entitled, under a medical certificate, if incapacitated for the performance of his duty by infirmity of mind or body, to a pension after fifteen years service. In Scotland no pension can be granted under twenty years service. In England, after twenty-five years service, a constable may, without a medical certificate, retire and claim his pension; but in Scotland he can only do so on condition that he is fifty-five years of age, or sixty years if above the rank of a sergeant. The English constable, on completing twenty-six years service, may receive two-thirds of his annual pay, while the Scottish constable, after the same service, only receives twenty-six-sixtieths, or considerably less than half pay. For instance, an English constable whose weekly pay is 27s. would receive, after twenty-six years service, 18s. per week, while a Scottish constable with the same service would receive only 11s. 8d. per week, making a difference of 6s. 4d., and he would only receive that if incapacitated for duty, or if he had attained fifty-five years of age. The English constable has thus the advantage not only of receiving a higher rate of pension, but of having a shorter period to contribute to the fund, notwithstanding the fact that the rateable deduction from the pay of both for the pension scheme is the same—namely, 2½ per cent. per annum. Nor does the difference end here. The Scottish constable is tied down by the age limit. He must commence the service before he is twenty-five years of age, and cannot retire under fifty-five years of age, and consequently he must serve thirty years before he is entitled to even a limited proportion of his pension. Compare this with the English constable's twenty-six years of service, which enables him to obtain a pension five years before the Scottish constable can claim one. The Scottish constable can only earn the maximum pension of two-thirds of his annual pay on completing thirty-four years service.

Such, briefly stated, are some of the inequalities and anomalies to which the police force of Scotland is subjected as compared with England, and the Bill now before the House would put an end to this state of matters, and is a measure of justice to which they are fully entitled. As a mere question of policy, and apart altogether from the merits of the case, it would be wise on the part of the Government to take up the question and to give facilities for the passing of the Bill. The duties of the police in Scotland are as onerous and exacting as are those of England, and the difference of treatment in respect of pensions is tending, and will tend more and more, to weaken the efficiency of the Scottish police by inducing the most energetic and promising men to seek the better treatment and pay existing in England, and also in preventing the retiral of officers who have met with injury, or who have reached an age when they are unable satisfactorily to perform the arduous duties imposed upon them.

Now, I am at a loss to understand why such an assimilation of the law of Scotland to England should not take place, and why the Scottish police should not be placed upon the same level. No further contribution is asked from the Imperial funds (I am sure the Chancellor of the Exchequer would smile at that), nor is it at all likely, judging from the past experience of all the most important centres of police authority in Scotland, that anything will be required from the local rates. I say that it is not at all likely, as the House will see from the published and official statements of the amount of accumulated funds arising from the Exchequer grant, and from the deductions from the pay of the constables and other sources. From the published official statement of the Corporation of Glasgow Police Department, employing one-fourth of the whole police of Scotland, I find that no less a sum than £11,037 6s. has been added to the fund in the one year ending 15th March, 1900, and to show that this is no solitary year, there has been since the passing of the Act in 1890 an accumulation of no less than £117,993 17s. 3d. Edinburgh has an accumulated fund of £45,305; Dundee, of £18,973; Aberdeen, of £12,207; Ayr, of £2,394 4s. 3d.; Hawick, of £1,370; Hamilton, of £1,879; Stirlingshire, of £7,040; Ayrshire, of £13,841; Aberdeenshire, of £7,847. I need not go through every police fund in Scotland, but I make the statement that not a single police authority in Scotland has ever had to put its hand in its pocket in connection with the fund, nor is it likely that, if the Bill passes, they will require to do so. It is, of course, impossible to calculate exactly what may be the additional burden thrown upon the fund if the terms of the English Act are given to Scotland, as it has to be borne in mind that the Bill is so permissive that the police authority may give anything above the minimum; but assuming that they give an average between the maximum and minimum, I do not anticipate that it would involve a very large additional sum, probably not more than 25 per cent. For instance, the amount of pension paid by Glasgow for the year ending 15th March, 1900, was £5,474 19s. 5d., and, if this Bill pass, probably the additional cost might be estimated at £1,400 to £1,500 per annum, still leaving a very large surplus of not less than £4,000 per annum. It has now been seen that nothing is asked from the Imperial Exchequer, nor yet is it likely that anything will be required from the local rates. This is perhaps, the most important point, but in addition the terms of the Bill are heartily approved of by almost all the best authorities on the subject. His Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary for Scotland has for many years past urged the desirability of the amendment proposed. The Convention of Royal Burghs of Scotland, consisting of ninety-four burghs, having 187 representatives, almost entirely provosts and other members of their respective town councils, and having lengthened municipal experience in the administration of the police force, are in favour of the amendments proposed by the Bill. Last, but not least, three-fourths of the Scottish Members of Parliament support the principles of the Bill, and no doubt many of them will take an opportunity to-day of saying so.

In conclusion I would ask the kindly co-operation of the English and Irish representatives, seeing that the Bill imposes no new burden upon the taxpayers, and only seeks to have the law established in England assimilated to that of Scotland. For these reasons I beg to move the Second Reading of this Bill.

MR. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy Burghs): I only rise formally to second the motion of my hon. friend. It seems to me that the case has been put forward so fully that really there is nothing more to be said. The case for the Bill is that we only ask for Scotland what the English have in their own local authorities, and which, so far as I know, has worked very well up to the present time. I do not think that in this country there has been a single complaint by any of the local authorities. I would further point out that in this matter Scotch opinion is almost unanimous, so far as this Bill is concerned. I think we are entitled to a dash of Home Rule in proposing this measure this afternoon. I think that three-fourths of the Scotch Members at least on both sides of the House are pledged to vote for it, and I appeal to Irish Members that that is a strong reason why they should give us their support on the present occasion. I notice on the Paper a motion by the hon. Member for Mid Lanark to the effect that this Bill be read a second time this day six months. I am nearly always glad to follow the leadership of the hon. Member for Mid Lanark, but I am sorry that I cannot do so on this occasion. I cannot conceive, myself, why any Scottish Liberal or Member should oppose this Bill. In Scotland we believe in decentralisation, and in giving local bodies charge of their own affairs, and surely we ought to be in favour upon a question of this kind of safely trusting to their good judgment and their good sense. It seems to me that the mere fact that we are proposing to give them this power does not necessarily mean that they are going to exercise it. They can deal with the question as they think best, and the ratepayers will be the masters of the situation, for they can elect men who will carry this question out in accordance with the wishes of the ratepayers. It seems to me that we are advised to take a very safe step this afternoon, for we are asked to endorse a certain permissive principle which they will have power to exercise if they wish it. Many of the local authorities even in England have not exercised this power. We say that the Scottish policeman is as good as the English policeman, and he ought to have the same benefits given to him if the local authorities consider he deserves them. I have much pleasure in seconding this proposal.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

MR. CALDWELL (Lanarkshire, Mid): It is perfectly true, as has been stated by the mover and seconder of this motion, that over three-fourths of the Scotch Members are pledged in favour of this Bill; but that fact makes it all the more necessary that this House should be made aware of the merits of the Bill which the Scotch Members have so suspiciously pledged themselves to support. The police are an organised body in Scotland, and at the last election they took the precaution of using their influence by putting certain questions to the different candidates, pointing out that it was simply a matter of putting them on an equality with England, and they got promises of support from Scotch Members who did not then sufficiently understand the merits of this case. I am perfectly willing that the hon. Members from Scotland who are pledged in favour of this Bill should get whatever benefit they may derive from their support of it, but I think that they should at least give an opportunity for the case against the Bill to be presented to the House. What I object to is that, at an election, people with private and personal interests of their own should take advantage of that opportunity to force certain subjects upon their Members and exact pledges from them. I have always taken up the position that I will never give any pledge upon a matter which personally concerns any of the voters. I consider that it is downright bribery to say that you will vote for a Bill by which certain people will get certain pecuniary advantages. The hon. Member who moved this Bill said that Glasgow contained one-fourth of the whole police of Scotland. I may point out that the Corporation of the City of Glasgow are unanimously opposed to this Bill.

MR. JOHN WILSON (Falkirk Burghs): Question!

MR. CALDWELL: You may question it, but it is a fact. This Bill is supported mainly by officers who are at the age of retirement, and they are more interested in the retiring allowance than the rank and file, who are more interested in the matter of pay than in pensions. It is obvious that in considering pensions you must also consider the question of pay. An increase of pay is better for the rank and file of the constabulary, because it is an immediate advantage, while the pension is deferred, and might never be reached; and even if it were reached it would always be improved by an increase in the pay. With regard to the question of the efficiency of the police, I maintain that it will be best promoted by having a moderate pension scheme, such as will enable the local authorities to give the largest possible pay, and in that respect there is no room whatever for complaint with regard to the local authorities in Scotland. The rate of pay varies in different localities, and if the local authorities think it is too little they can make it up in regard to the pay in such a way that the remuneration of the police would not be affected one iota in Scotland any more than in England. I intend to show that it is absolutely necessary that the pension fund for Scotland should not be interfered with, and that this matter of pay is one which is always open for a local authority to undermine.

We are told that the sole reason for this Bill is that England has got certain things, and that Scotland also should have them. That seems to represent the whole argument in favour of the Bill, and scarcely any other argument has been introduced. It has not been maintained that the system in England is superior to the system in Scotland. Now what is the difference between the two Acts of Parliament in the case of England and Scotland? In 1890 both these Acts passed through the House at the same time, based upon the same lines, except in regard to the variation of the power given to the local authority. The age at which a policeman may retire in Scotland is fifty-five, and he can retire with two-thirds of his salary after thirty-five years service. So far as that pension is concerned, it is better than is now given to civil servants as a rule. What is the difference in the case of England? In England the pension is rather less favourable than in Scotland. The hon. Member told us that there were a great many cases in England where they did not take advantage of the latitude given by the Act. According to the English scale they are required to serve up to the age of fifty-five before they can claim two-thirds of their pay. The only difference in England is that a certain latitude is allowed to local authorities in the adoption of the maximum scale. I notice that there was no attempt made to defend this power of variation in the case of local authorities in England as regards the pension fund. What is the result in England? In Manchester and some other places a man can retire after twenty-six years service.

We talk about removing grievances. Are there not grievances in England at the present moment as regards the powers of the local authorities to create differences?—and yet the contention is that Scotland should be put on an equal footing with England, although England is not on an equal footing itself, one part with another. That is a contention which is, of course, overlooked altogether. England has got the power—and this is the whole point of the Bill—to let its local authorities give whatever sum they think proper within certain fixed lines. What you want to do now is to give Scotland the same power of varying the pension fund, to which every man has an equal and moral right. The public money belongs to one man as well as to another, and they all pay equally into the fund, and yet you want to give the local authorities power to vary the rights of men which are absolutely and morally equal. We know why it is that you want this power of variation. This Bill is an example of it. We know perfectly well that the influence of the police on Members of Parliament has been such that they have practically got a unanimity in their favour which I venture to say would not be displayed towards any other proposal. What would be the result if this Bill were passed? The police would begin to squeeze the local authorities, if they were allowed variation in this matter, on the subject of pensions, and the result would be that one local authority would give way and the others would follow like a flock of sheep through a hole in the hedge. The principle of the Scottish Act is that the pension fund is a fund to which each policeman pays equally. He has an equal right to the public money, and of course he is entitled to an equal share corresponding to his pay. Yet we are told that this Bill is to create equal rights in Scotland; that is to say, equal rights to the local authorities to produce variations and grievances. If this Bill were passed, local authorities would begin to be squeezed in the same way that Members of Parliament have been squeezed, and there would probably be difficulty with the working classes, who have no pensions themselves and who would feel aggrieved if the local authorities granted pensions to the police. If there is any subject on which there is no room for local fighting at all, that subject is the subject of the police, and for this reason—that unless the police have got the goodwill of the public at their back their usefulness is gone. Once raise questions of conflict between the workers on one hand and the police on the other, and you destroy the usefulness of the police force. Why was a fixed scheme provided in the Scotch Act? For the very reason that there should be no variation between the different localities; and yet we are now told that because England has the power of variation, Scotland should necessarily follow her example. Have we anything else in Scotland that England has not got? I think we pay school teachers in Scotland better than teachers are paid in England. Undoubtedly they are entitled to it, and no one proposes to bring down their salaries to the level of English salaries. The answer always given in connection with this Bill is that we are doing an injustice to the policemen of Scotland. Before the Act of 1890 they had no pension fund at all. In that year they got that Act without paying a penny into the pension fund, so that there is no room for the contention so far as the police are concerned that they have really any grievance. Reference has been made to the case of Birmingham, where the local authorities have adopted to the full extent the powers of the Act. I have got excerpts to show that in all cases where local authorities have gone to the full extent of the Act, the effect has been to create a deficit in the funds. A man retires on his pension whenever he is qualified, because if he continues to serve he may commit some fault and lose his pension, and the result is that in some places not more than ten per cent. of the men remain in the service after twenty-six years service. Will anyone say that a man of forty-seven or forty-eight years of age, after twenty-six years service, is a man who ought to be compulsorily pensioned at two-thirds of the highest pay he has ever earned? So far as the Scotch Act is concerned, we have always treated the police as a purely local matter, because we have divided our police fund into localities, and we look to the police as purely local. But there is no variation as regards pensions. If you give power to exercise an option, and if it is exercised, it is this House that will be responsible, and ratepayers will look into the question as to whether they were protected by their representatives when the local authorities were given such a power. Of course it may not be compulsory, but that is the evil of it, because you will have in each district any amount of variation, and you will destroy the efficacy of your police force.

I daresay the Lord Advocate knows perfectly well the Act of 1890, and it is with reference to that that I wish to point out some circumstances to show why it was that this Act for Scotland was deliberately made different from the English Act. The House of Commons had the English Act before it, and yet they deliberately, and for reasons which I shall give, made the Scotch Act different. In Scotland, of course, no pension fund practically existed, and there was no power to get compulsory pensions before the Act of 1890. Various attempts were made by both Liberal and Conservative Governments to establish a pension fund which would fall upon the rates. These Bills were opposed, and the result was that neither a Liberal nor a Conservative Government could create a pension fund which would fall upon the rates. In 1890 an opportunity was offered, and the Government created a pension fund which does not fall upon the rates at all. That pension fund consisted of £40,000 taken out of the Custom and Excise grant which was given to Scotland, and of course if that money had not been given for police pensions it would have been available for some other Scotch purpose. It is Scotch money, to which all Scotchmen have practically an equal right, and it was devoted to this pension fund. Then there was some other money handed over for the fund, such as fines from the police and the proceeds from the sale of old clothing; and in addition each policeman was to contribute two and a half per cent. of his salary. The portion contributed by the police themselves to the fund amounted to about £10,000 a year out of £64,000, or a little less than one-sixth, so that I take it over five-sixths has been practically contributed out of public money, which belongs to the ratepayers of Scotland, and which if not applied to the pension fund would at least be available for the benefit of the rates. The object of the Government was, and it was stated at the time, to create a pension fund from which the police would be able to draw their superannuation without there being any possibility of a claim on the local rates. And it was on that footing that the Bill was carried through. To show how carefully the scheme was prepared, I may say that the Bill was submitted to a Select Committee of the House, and that the Committee had before them Mr. Finlaison, actuary to the National Debt Commissioners, secretary to the Commutation Board of the Metropolitan Police, and the best expert actuary in the country. After careful investigation he gave it as his opinion that the pension scheme would so work out that for thirty years at least there would be no possible chance of any burden falling on the rates, and that after that provision should be made in some other way. The hon. Member who moved the Second Reading of the Bill gave us his calculations. The facts stated by the hon. Member were right, but his deductions were absolutely wrong. The actuary's argument was that when the pension fund was begun there would be very few pensions at first; but when you brought in a number of men to the force with the idea of pensions they would remain in the service, and gradually the scheme would work out in such a way that in thirty years it would begin to come down the hill. The capital sums to the credit of the local authorities are getting on every year, but it must be borne in mind that according to the best expert authority in the country the pension fund would certainly remain solvent for thirty years, but after that it would probably be a burden on the rates. So far matters have gone much worse than when the scheme was actually propounded. What the actuary told the Committee was that he based his figures upon a force of 4,055 men. He did not make any allowance for an increase, because he said if they got rid of a lot of old men a few younger men would be able to do the work, and that therefore the force would not be likely to increase. He took the average pay at £71 5s. 9d., whereas the average pay now is £72 10s. He did not allow for that increase in pay, or for the increase in the number of men from four thousand to five thousand. What insurance company at the present moment would say that the pension fund was in a solvent state? The actuary also based his calculations on the assumption that fifty-five years was to be the age at which a policeman was to be retired, and that he should serve thirty-five years before he got his pension. But now a policeman need not wait for thirty-five years to get his pension, because if he is incapacitated in body or mind he can be pensioned after twenty years service. If, therefore, we are to introduce a new pension scheme that will enable men to be retired after twenty-six years instead of thirty-five years, after only having made twenty-six instead of thirty-five years contributions to the fund, it will soon be absolutely insolvent. I would therefore point out to the Lord Advocate that if we are going to introduce variations into the pension scheme, and if we are going to keep it on the lines of the Act of 1890, we will require to introduce some new source of revenue to meet the increased burden which will be imposed. Where are we to get this increased revenue? The money cannot be obtained from Imperial funds, and where, therefore, is it to come from? The Bill states that any deficit in the money is to be paid out of the local rates. That is where the money is to come from. The Government scheme of 1890 was dealt with in a most careful manner. It was submitted to a Select Committee, evidence was taken from experts, and the Bill was afterwards discussed on Report, and also on the Third Reading. It was a most carefully prepared Government measure, but now it is proposed to sanction a Bill which will upset that scheme, but which makes no provision whatever for the additional money which the new obligations will require. It is most important that as regards the question of policeman's pensions there should be no possible risk of criticism on the part of the ratepayers. In this Bill you are going to open the door to criticism, not only because you propose to provide a new burden of taxation, but because you propose to allow the local authorities to exercise an option which, as I have pointed out, they have no right to exercise, as regards a fund to which each man contributes his share, and to which every man has an equal right.

It will be seen that this subject is not quite as simple as hon. Members think. It is not a matter in which we in Scotland should do what England does. That is no answer at all. We do our own business according to our own ideas, and it is no answer to say that because England does a thing therefore we should do it also. That argument is brought forward because it suits this particular case. I am interested in this matter because I am a county Member. To whom is entrusted this power of making a variation in the pension scheme? The power is entrusted to the police authorities. Who are the police authorities in Scotland? They are the standing joint committees, only a minority of whom are representatives of the ratepayers who will have to pay this burthen of taxation. In the case of poor rates in Scotland, half is paid by the owner and half by the occupier, but in the case of the police rate the whole is paid by the occupier.

MR. RENSHAW (Renfrewshire, W.): I should like to correct the hon. Member. Half the police rate is paid by the occupier and half by the owner.

MR. CALDWELL: I may be wrong as regards the rate, but I am not wrong as regards the joint committees, so that the principle for which I contend is exactly the same. Why should we give this power to bodies which are not fully representative of the ratepayers? Why should we entrust to them the power of putting an increased burden on the local rates? We have always objected to the standing joint committees. We have always contended that in the county districts the ratepayers should have the same opportunity of dealing with the police as they have in the boroughs. To my mind, that is a sufficient objection for county Members to take as regards this Bill. If this Bill passes you will throw into a vortex the police on the one hand and the ratepayers on the other. There is a working class population in my own county. They work harder than the police, and they have been tempted by the prospect of old-age pensions. All that is, it appears, in the distance, and yet this House is now asked to increase the pensions of the police. If this Bill is passed, I venture to say it will succeed in creating irritation, and that the effect will be most disastrous as far as the efficiency of the police force is concerned. The promoters of the Bill say that they have got the opinion of the Convention of Royal Burghs. Who imagines for a moment that the Convention of Royal Burghs has any weight in Scotland? It is more susceptible of being got at by the police than any other body. It is not said that the promoters have the consent of the trades unions in Scotland. Why, it was the power of the trades unions in 1885 that prevented a Liberal Government from introducing a pension scheme. Have the trades unions been consulted, and have they given their consent to this Bill?

MR. JOHN WILSON (Falkirk Burghs): May I ask the hon. Member if the trades unions have objected?

MR. CALDWELL: Why, they are the parties who have always objected. The police are organised, and they have been able to capture the Scotch Members in favour of this Bill. Do you imagine that this matter will rest at this stage? What has become of the Municipal Workers' Association in Glasgow? Did the promoters of the Bill get the consent of that association, which has influence enough to return members on the town council? Hon. Members know many of the leaders of that association—one of the greatest being Mr. John Ferguson. He is opposed to the Bill; the Corporation of Glasgow and the Police Board are opposed to it. I candidly confess that I have been unable to get any Scotch Member to second my motion for the rejection of the Bill, so completely has the situation been got at. At the same time, I am not alarmed, and even alone I will stand up against this Bill, and hon. Members will find that greater interest is taken in the question than they imagine when they again come before the people of Scotland. I am not in a position to move my Amendment, though at the end of the discussion I will challenge a division. I acknowledge the poverty of the situation, but I may say that I shall be astonished if the Government accept this Bill. Mark you, this Bill is either a good Bill or it is not, and therefore should be accepted or rejected in its entirety. Its object is to assimilate the law in Scotland to the law in England, and there is no room for any compromise. Why not therefore pass the Bill in its entirety or reject it?

MR. PARKER SMITH (Lanarkshire, Partick): I disagree with the hon. Member who has just sat down, after a full and interesting examination of the question, in saying that there is no room for compromise. I think—and many Scotch Members will agree with me—that there is great room for compromise, and that is the reason why the hon. Member has not been able to find a seconder for his motion. The question undoubtedly is one which wants looking into, but at the same time I am by no means ready to accept all that my hon. friend behind me has advanced. No question is involved of any charge on Imperial funds. It is simply a question of what we are to do with our own money, which ten years ago was devoted to this special purpose of police pensions, and also whether money is to be taken out of the rates in order to assist the fund. The hon. Member who introduced the Bill said he did not anticipate that the Bill would include any charge on the rates. I do not agree with that, but I think in any case it would be absolutely necessary to have full actuarial evidence on the subject, and I confess I would be extremely astonished if Mr. Finlaison, or any other actuary, would endorse the view of the hon. Member. No one nowadays—whatever may have been the case ten years ago—grudges the provision of pensions for the police in Scotland. The bulk of the fund is mainly made up out of £40,000 a year, which was the Scotch grant under the Act of 1890, the deductions from the men's salaries forming a very small part of it. The question is one between the ratepayers and the police. Hitherto hon. Members have only heard the police, who, I believe, approached every Scotch Member at the last election, and did so with so much propriety and modesty, and in such a more reasonable spirit than other bodies of civil servants are in the habit of doing, that they found hon. Members very willing to listen to them. Still, I think there is a very great danger likely to arise from the fact of such a large number of civil servants having the franchise and approaching Members. It is calculated to lead to the exercise of unfair and undue pressure. In the grosser cases, of course, such pressure is rightly resented. But there are so many shapes of it that it is impossible to draw the line firmly. There are so many shapes of the desire to use influence on behalf of a man for improving his position, that when that position depends on what he receives from the Government there is, I repeat, very great danger to individual Members for the intervention in electoral proceedings of civil servants. But with regard to the police, I certainly think they have put forward a *prima facie* case. Of course, there is no question whatever that there is a considerable difference between their position in England and Scotland. The only question is, whether there is a conclusive argument for making the position the same in the two countries.

I will turn for a moment to the history of the Act of 1890. I take especial interest in that Act, because it happened to come before the first Committee on which I had the honour of sitting—the first Committee composed exclusively of Scotch Members. The proposals of the Bill were fully and thoroughly discussed by that Committee. It will be remembered that in that year two Bills were brought in at once—one for England and the other for Scotland. The terms of the two Bills were, I think, identical, and the view of the Government in bringing them in was that there should be uniformity in the two countries. But what happened in the two Committees? The Scotch Bill was referred to a Scotch Committee and the English Bill to an English Committee. The views of the English Committee were pretty liberal and generous, and were very favourable to policemen; in fact, the Bill was extended in one direction and another so as to benefit the police more than was proposed in the original scheme. But in regard to the Scotch Committee, its anxiety was to produce a solvent scheme. We took evidence from Glasgow and other places, in addition to listening to the police witnesses. We restricted the scheme in various ways, and we took the strongest precautions to ensure that it should be solvent. Of course, there are two ways of looking at this matter. The English scheme undoubtedly involved dipping into the pockets of the ratepayers. You have a fixed Exchequer contribution both in England and Scotland, and, of course, there is no question of applying to the Exchequer for an enlargement of that contribution. Then you have other sources of revenue, and both in England and Scotland the balance is guaranteed by the Police Fund. If there is any deficiency it has to be made up by the local ratepayer. Ten years ago the view of Scotch public opinion undoubtedly was in favour of a solvent scheme, and while a guarantee was given to make up any deficit in cases of accident, it was insisted that the scheme should be one in which the risk under the guarantee should be infinitesimal. They got such a scheme. But in England it was not so, and the English ratepayers have to make good the deficiencies of their scheme. They will presently have to make good a great deal more than they do now. In England, as things stand at present, each county and borough has its separate fund. Some pay their way, others do not; and the deficiencies in many cases of the annual income is very considerable. The whole income at present, however, is £363,000. The expenditure is £370,000, and thus there is a deficiency at the present moment for the English counties and boroughs of £7,000. Of course, the charge is an increasing one, and it will continue to increase enormously. While the capital is increasing but slightly, the income is almost stationary, and the English ratepayers will have consequently to make good a very considerable deficiency in coming years. In London the case is a much stronger one. The deficiency each year is very large. It is increasing with what seems to be alarming rapidity. In the year 1896–97 the deficiency was £80,000, in the following year it was £93,000, in 1898–99 it was £109,000, and in the next twelve months it rose to nearly £121,000. I have not the slightest idea for how many years that rate of increase is going to continue, but it certainly will for some time. In Scotland our position is quite different. There we have an Exchequer contribution of £40,000, and in the last ten years the funds for the counties and boroughs have accumulated so that we get an income of £9,400 by way of dividend. The stoppages from the men's pay come to about £10,300 and the income from other sources to about £4,500. In only one or two instances—those of small authorities—has there been any deficiency; indeed, the total amount which has to be made up from the rates is less than £500, and that will, of course, be repaid in a short time. We have an income at the present time of £64,500, while our expenditure is only about £22,500; therefore a large fund is being laid by from year to year. As the result of nine years working we have accumulated a sum of £388,000 for the benefit of the pension scheme. That does not in the least prove that we can afford to pay away a large part of that £388,000, because, as has been pointed out already, year by year the expenses are increasing, and the maximum outgoing will not be reached for at least another thirty years. By that time it will be necessary to have a very much larger fund laid up than we have at present. These questions were gone into most carefully by the actuary whose name has been several times mentioned in the course of this debate. But, on the whole, our position, I think, is rather better now than it was anticipated it would be. We thought that after eight years working we should have accumulated £318,000; we have, in fact, accumulated a great deal more. But, on the other hand, we anticipated that at the end of that period our expenses would be £18,000, whereas they are now £22,500. I do not agree with the hon. Member opposite that the actuarial position, on account of the circumstances he mentioned, is necessarily worse than it was when Mr. Finlaison drew out his estimate. But it must be borne in mind that various changes favourable to the fund were made in the Bill when it was before the Committee, although I cannot say exactly to what extent those changes improved its actuarial position. On the other hand, other changes were made which involved greater expense. I think it would be perfectly reasonable, after ten years experience of the fund, that we should set Mr. Finlaison, or some equally competent actuary, to examine the position, and tell us how we stand in regard to it. If we are able, with financial safety, to give any better terms to the police, I am sure there will not be the slightest opposition to our doing so, for we have no desire to heap up money for the benefit of posterity. But I confess I do not think there is room for very much alteration in that respect.

Other questions must, of course, be considered. Hon. Members, in dealing with this matter, ought to have properly before them the question whether they can, with safety, give any further advantage to the police out of the fund as it at present stands. Can we modify the terms on which the police receive pensions? Beyond that, there is a further question on which, for my part, I confess I have as yet quite an open mind, and that is: do the ratepayers consider the advantages of a fund on a similar scale for Scotland as that which prevails in England are so great that they are willing to incur some expenditure for the sake of getting it? It is clear that the greater temptations in England do, to a certain extent, injure the Scotch police force and its power of getting thoroughly good men. We do not pay the same rate of wages in Scotland as in England. But we have to consider whether the ratepayers and local authorities believe that the effect of paying a different scale of wages does injure them to an extent which can be appreciated in money. Are they willing, in order to get rid of that damage to the police force, to undertake certain further liabilities, and to give a more generous scale of pension to the police, with the knowledge that in future years there may be a call on the ratepayers' purse? That is a question which the police cannot be expected to consider. But we do want to have the views of the local authorities upon it. Again, I very much desire to have the views of the different local authorities upon the question whether they wish that we here should establish a uniform scale, or whether they desire that there should be that local option which is given to the English police authorities. Of course, if they tell us that they desire the amount of choice which the English authorities have, I should feel absolutely prepared to support the change. But my belief is that they would rather not have it. I think we should find they would say that it is for this House to lay down what it thinks is right, and that there should not be an opening for local pressure from people who have the work to do, and for whom one may have the greatest liking and respect, because if there were such an opening it would produce on each locality exactly the same difficulty that my hon. friend was so cautious about in regard to the views of Members of this House. These are the questions which have to be decided before we can either pass or reject this measure. They cannot possibly be decided on the floor of this House. They cannot possibly be decided without hearing evidence, and, therefore, I hope that the inclination of the Government will be to accept the Second Reading of the Bill, and then to refer it to a Select Committee upstairs, which can take full evidence. That Committee, of course, should be mainly Scotch. But I confess that I would rather it was not purely a Scotch Committee, as was the case ten years ago. We have got an alternative system, and there are in this House a good many gentlemen familiar with the merits and disadvantages of that system. I think that on our Committee we should be very much benefited by having the assistance of two or three English gentlemen who would be willing to give attention to that subject; and therefore, under the circumstances, I hope the Bill will be allowed to pass its Second Reading, and will be sent to a Committee upstairs for consideration.

*MR. JOHN DEWAR (Inverness-shire) said he desired to associate himself with the remarks which fell from the hon. Member for Mid-Lanark in regard to the peculiar danger of public civil servants or police or constables banding themselves together to intimidate timid and nervous candidates for Parliamentary honours. But he supported the Second Reading of the Bill on account of the experience he had gained as the chief magistrate of one of the Scotch cities. It was of the very greatest importance for the efficiency of the police force that the law of Scotland should be assimilated to that of England, because of the constant drain of the best men from Scotland to England for the sake of the benefits which they received in the latter country. He did not see why a Scotch policeman in Glasgow should work under different conditions from a Scotch policeman in Liverpool or Manchester. He was one of those who thought that a Scotchman should not get worse treatment than an Englishman, even if he were a policeman, and he saw no reason why a Scotch policeman should be better paid or better pensioned in an English city or county than in a Scotch city or county. In the interests of the police force it was absolutely necessary that the law of England and Scotland should be assimilated, because in Scotland under present conditions they did not get or retain the best class of men. He believed that last year there had been no fewer than 390 resignations of good and efficient policemen who were dissatisfied with the conditions of service in Scotland, and a very large proportion of them had, he believed, come to England and joined the police force here. The Bill had been supported by the great majority of the Scotch constituencies, although it had been opposed by the Glasgow Town Council—whether unanimously or not he could not say. It had also been supported by the Convention of Royal Burghs. He did not associate himself with what had been said by an hon. Member regarding the Convention of Royal Burghs. The hon. Member had declared that that was a body that was held up to ridicule; but some people laughed at Parliament, and even some Members of Parliament were held up to public ridicule. It should be remembered that the Convention of Royal Burghs was composed of representative magistrates and councillors of the burghs all over Scotland, and surely their wishes should be respected. He supported the Bill also because it was permissive. and the local authorities could adopt it or reject it as they liked.

SIR WALTER THORBURN (Peebles and Selkirk) supported the Bill as a simple matter of justice to a very deserving class, than whom, morally and physically, a better could not be found either in England or Scotland. He could not understand the objection of his hon. friend the Member for Mid-Lanark, who suggested that hon. Members on both sides of the House had been pressed or influenced to support this measure from some political motive. He could say for himself that, with the exception of a sergeant, not a single policeman had ever mentioned the Bill to him. He supported the Bill simply because it was just and fair to the police force of Scotland. It was a purely permissive Bill, and if any local authority objected to its provisions it need not adopt it. The Bill was supported by many of the public bodies in Scotland, and undoubtedly by the vast majority of the Members for Scotch constituencies. The only exception was the hon. Member for Mid-Lanark, and he hoped that the hon. Member would withdraw his objection and allow the Bill to be read a second time without a division. He also hoped that the right hon. the Lord Advocate would show a friendly interest in the Bill, so that it might become law during the present session.

*MR. THOMAS SHAW (Hawick Burghs) said that, while he supported the Second Reading of the Bill, he was not to be held committed to the style of drafting its varied provisions, which indeed were very complicated and involved. He did not think that the hon. Member for Mid-Lanark in his emphatic and somewhat diffuse argument had really touched the main principle which underlay the provisions of the Bill. That principle was that the police force in Scotland, which was not inferior in ability, character, or efficiency in discharging their duties, should be put, on the point of emoluments, and, *quoad* pension, on the same footing as the English police. Who could object to that? A good deal had been said in the course of the debate as to the application of the screw; but a practice of that kind required two parties. They might have the screw applied, but the person to whom it was applied must be considered; and he was slow to think that his colleagues in Scotland were so soft as to be squeezable in that particular. Surely experience was that if a man took his stand in opposition to a demand, whether of a political or religious kind, and gave a reasoned explanation for his dissent to his constituents, these did not undervalue him on account of the manly attitude he had taken up. His reasons for supporting the Bill were slightly different from those given by hon. Gentlemen who had preceded him. He had had experience in regard to the working of the police in Scotland from an official point of view. For some years he had had a share in superintending the whole system of public prosecution in that country, and nothing during his entire term of office struck him more than the manner in which the Scotch police discharged the delicate duties committed to their supervision. Under the system of public prosecution in Scotland, the police were to a large extent, and of necessity, the agents in advance of the Crown in all criminal prosecutions. The Crown officials had, therefore, daily reports from the police in regard to their responsible duties, and these showed most vividly the extreme tact and great efficiency with which the constables discharged their duty. Why, then, should these men not be put on a footing of equal right in point of emolument with their colleagues south of the Tweed?

There was one other point in regard to the police in Scotland which he wished to emphasise. He did not believe that there was any part of His Majesty's dominions, certainly no part of the United Kingdom, in which the police were more truly peace officers than in Scotland. The law in Scotland was so administered that it was only in the rarest instances that the policeman was looked upon as an oppressor of the people; he was uniformly regarded as a protector. The policeman was truly a guardian of the peace, and considered himself better employed in the prevention of crime than in its detection after being committed. These were his reasons for supporting on principle the Second Reading of the Bill. But the House ought to be grateful to the hon. Members for Mid-Lanark and Partick for making allusion to the actuarial considerations which should be kept in view, although in regard to these he felt no great alarm. The measure was, after all, permissive. He hoped his hon. friend opposite, in indicating his assent to this application of the principle of local option, would not object to its being adopted in another department which was closely allied to police administration—namely, the liquor traffic. There would be two considerable advantages in the appointment of a Select Committee to consider this Bill. In the first place the members of the Glasgow Corporation, the ablest and most powerful in the kingdom, would be able to show to the Select Committee what was their view of the finance of the measure, and if their view was supported actuarially it would serve to emasculate or to extinguish the Bill altogether. He himself had no fear of such a result. His other point was that the Select Committee would be useful in furnishing a guide to the local authorities in adopting the option conferred upon them by the

Bill. In conclusion, he hoped that the Select Committee would not protract their investigations so long as to kill the Bill, but that their efforts would be directed to making it, from an actuarial point of view, a sound measure.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire): Perhaps it will be convenient to the House, as the subject has been fully debated, that I should state now the view of His Majesty's Government on the Bill. We are entirely in sympathy with the object proposed by the Bill. I have certainly great pleasure in corroborating from an even longer official experience than the hon. and learned Member for Hawick Burghs what he said in regard to the conduct of the police in Scotland. I can only say that I do not think I ever had to make a complaint about the police in Scotland. The peculiarities of the police force and the services required of them make them undoubtedly proper subjects of a pension, because it is quite obvious that a policeman to be efficient must be in the full vigour of life, and it would be unfair to turn him adrift the moment that vigour ceased as the result of the faithful discharge of his arduous duties, although he had still many years to live, and was too old to enter into another employment. But the question of superannuation ought also to be looked at from the point of view of economy. A policeman is much more valuable after he has had a certain amount of training; but the body which pays for the training should have the advantage of the trained article. Undoubtedly it is the case that, under the present system, Scotland is to a great extent used as a training ground for the English police; and I entirely corroborate, from what I myself know, the statement made in that respect by the hon. Member for Inverness, on whose first intervention in the debates of this House I may be allowed to congratulate him. Holding these views, I am entirely favourable to the objects sought to be effected by the Bill.

The hon. Member for Mid-Lanark, in one of his least impassioned utterances this morning, asked me if I did not wish to pass this Bill. I am personally quite willing that the Bill should pass, but I must give the reasons for an attitude which I am almost sorry to take up—namely, that the Bill should not go through the ordinary procedure, but should be remitted to a Select Committee. It is all very well to say that the change proposed to be imposed by the Bill is merely permissive, and that consequently no burden is necessarily put upon the rates. That is an argument which may be carried too far. It has not been the practice of Parliament to give unlimited powers to local authorities without knowing at least what is the worst that a local authority can do. This is a burden which, if I may use the expression, is a very insidious one, because if the authorities in any locality adopt the higher scale and put on the burden, they may do so with the very comfortable feeling that that burden will not fall on their shoulders in their own time. It is rather straining the consciences of some people to ask them to adopt a measure which will impose a burden, when they know perfectly well that the burden will fall only on their successors.

It is absolutely necessary from a business point of view to remember how this movement for police superannuation originated. In 1890 two parallel Bills were brought in by the Government dealing with police superannuation in England and Scotland. In England police superannuation was an old story. It began with an Act as long ago as 1840 for the counties. There was a borough Act in 1848; and then both boroughs and counties were put on an identical footing in 1859. Accordingly there was an actual system in England which had been running for fifty years, and to a certain extent for a longer period. From a practical point of view let us see, then, what was the state of affairs in which Parliament legislated in 1890? I hold in my hand a Return of the Home Office relating to police superannuation, dated 20th May, 1890. In that Return I find that there was practically a capital fund available for police superannuation purposes in England of £1,172,969. At the same time there were available resources statutorily ear-marked for the same purpose amounting to over £80,000 odd per annum. So that the problem to be faced in England at that time was to put these various police funds upon a thorough working footing in order to give the constables an absolute right to a pension. That object was effected by an Imperial contribution of £300,000 a year. In 1888 the deficiency which had to be met out of the rates was £182,460, and in 1898-99 I find that the deficiency to be met out of the rates was £154,000. That is, I think, evidence that the scheme which was started in England was a sound one. But what had you to do in Scotland? You had to inaugurate an absolutely new system. There was not a pension fund in Scotland at all, except that the burgh of Greenock redeemed the reproach by the possession of a fund with the modest capital of £800. Therefore there had to be a creation of the fund in 1890. May I remind the House what the creation of the fund really means? If you start a fund for the first time with a contribution of £40,000 a year you will have plain sailing at the beginning, because the great body of the men will not have served their time for a pension. But the stress and burden will come in the future. The purpose of the Bill is the assimilation of Scotland to England in the matter of police superannuation; but it is to be noticed that although the English Act is textually copied in the matter of scale, nothing is said of the ear-marked funds which appear in the English Act. In 1890 the Government felt that it would be necessary to make an investigation as to what was needed to establish a fund for Scotland, and the matter was remitted to a Select Committee. What the Select Committee did was to take the funds as they found them. They took £40,000 of an Imperial contribution, and the contributions statutorily devoted under the amended Section 16 to the police force, and they arranged a scale on a proper actuarial basis in which there would be a state of equilibrium. In this they were assisted by Mr. Finlaison. In the course of his evidence that gentleman assumed that the retirement from the police force would take place at the age of fifty-five, that the average salary would be £80, and that the pension would be £46 13s. 4d. He also assumed that the capital would be invested and accumulated at two and a half per cent. per annum. On these assumptions he found that up to the thirtieth year there would be no stress; that in the period between the thirtieth and forty-fifth year there would be a certain call on the rates; and after the forty-fifth year the number of new pensions would be exactly balanced by the number of deaths of pensioners, and that the fund would reach a proper state of equilibrium. Mr. Finlaison assumed that the force would number 4,100, which was modified to 4,278, that the ultimate number on the pension list would be 1,730, and that the ultimate charge would be £80,750 a year. But take the returns of last year. The police force was then not 4,278, but 5,114. If you take 5,114, that would involve an extra ultimate pension charge of £16,000. Without saying that Mr. Finlaison was wrong, I think I have shown enough to make it clear that there have been such increases that we cannot count too much upon the safety of a margin.

What would happen if you introduce the new scale under this Bill? It is said that not only is its adoption optional, but that it may fluctuate between the minimum and maximum; but if there was a fluctuating scale the last state would not be much better than the first. From the paper issued by the chief constables of Scotland, I find that in 1895, in England, 166 police forces adopted the maximum scale, twenty the intermediate scale, and only one the minimum scale. In other words, practically the whole police force of England adopted the maximum scale. The hon. Member for Mid-Lanark said that some local authorities would adopt the maximum scale, and that the others would follow like a flock of sheep through a hole in a hedge. The hon. Member might have put it in a more Parliamentary way—like Radical Members following him into the division lobby. Well, if the maximum scale were adopted, and the constables retired at forty-seven years of age, that would increase the number on the pension list from 1,730 to 3,300 or more, and the pensions would be increased from £46 13s. 4d. to £53 6s. 8d., which would make the ultimate pension charge more than double the pension charge calculated by Mr. Finlaison.

I think I have said enough to show that really we cannot adopt this Bill, as it stands, in the dark, without further inquiry. We cannot ask the Scotch local authorities to accept the Bill unless we show them what the ultimate charge is to be. I do not agree with the anticipations of the hon. Member who moved the Second Reading of the Bill, that there would be no charge on the rates; but I do not myself see why the rates should not be called upon to assist this very proper fund. The local authorities, however, should know how much they have to be called upon to pay. If you take the English figures (including the metropolis) you find that, so far as the rates are concerned, they bear 11·2 of the total expenditure; but if you take the Scotch figures—of course we know we have not yet reached the period of stress—the rates only bear ·7 of the total expenditure. Taking the English figures, the Exchequer grant—I give merely the percentages—was 39·7; the total revenue of the pension funds, dividends and interest, 13·5; deductions and stoppages from pay, 14·8; other receipts, 20·8; rates, 11·2. Taking the corresponding percentages in Scotland they are: Exchequer grants, 61·8; dividends and interest, 14·6; deductions and stoppages from pay, 16·1; other receipts, 6·8; rates ·7. I have now shown that the Scottish ratepayers would not pay very much if called upon to the same extent as their English brothers; in other words, I do not adopt what was said by the hon. Member for Partick when he indicated he did not think the scheme should go on unless it was in that state of financial solvency that an insurance company would consider it. From the speech of the hon. Member I gather that the scheme should be financed from sources other than the rates.

MR. PARKER SMITH said his statement was that the ratepayers should be made acquainted with the financial position of the scheme, so that they should know where they were.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: I entirely agree with that. Holding these views, I propose, on behalf of the Government, to accept the Second Reading of the Bill upon the understanding that it will be sent to a Select Committee. When it gets there, the Government will be willing to give such assistance as they can, so that the precise actuarial position may be ascertained, and then if, in the full light of day, the Scottish Members wish to pass the Bill, the Government will offer no objections.

*SIR LEWIS M'IVER (Edinburgh, W.) wished to remind the House that the question before them was the granting of a permissive power—a discretionary power—to local bodies in Scotland equal to the power enjoyed by corresponding bodies in England. But it was most important on a Second Reading for the House to know with what it was dealing. He viewed with alarm the ready acquiescence of the Government on condition that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee, as he had always understood that in this House such a proposal was a polite form of infanticide. What he wanted to understand from the Lord Advocate was whether the Government were in earnest about giving the Bill all reasonable facilities. If they were to understand the Select Committee to which the Bill was to be referred would be appointed with no loss of time, and that facilities would be afforded to get through the necessary work that would put the House in possession of the actuarial facts, he would advise the promoters of the Bill to accept the offer of the Government.

MR. RENSHAW said the debate had been of very great interest, and the matter which was under discussion was a very important one to the local bodies of Scotland. The question had been discussed mainly from the police point of view, rather than from the point of view of those who had charge of the police arrangements. It was a matter of satisfaction to him that the hon. Member for the Border Burghs had commenced to have more confidence in these authorities than he appeared to have in the past. He was aware that the local authorities in Scotland had realised that the differences in the system of pensions in England and Scotland militated against their retaining the best of their forces in Scotland. From that point of view, he thought every local authority in Scotland would welcome the opportunity of redressing any real grievance that could be proved to exist at the present time. He hoped, however, they would not fall into the evil that accompanied the existing

English system, because the permissive and optional system appeared to him to be a very dangerous one. The Lord Advocate, in his figures, stated that something like 16·6 per cent. of the English force had adopted the maximum principle under the provisions of the English Bill. His opinion was that they should take great care to avoid the evils in the English Bill, and have one uniform system; and he hoped the result of the consideration of the Bill in Committee would be to produce a useful measure that would enable them to give the police that to which they were entitled—namely, quite as good a pension as was given to the police in England.

*MR. WALLACE (Perth) said that he only rose to ask whether he properly understood what the Lord Advocate put before the House. Hon. Members were perfectly disposed to see this Bill sent to a Select Committee, if such a course did not mean the death of the Bill. If he understood the hon. Gentleman to mean that if, after examination before the Select Committee, it was found that the Bill was a working Bill, the Government would assist the House in passing it, not merely by abstaining from any active opposition, but by giving the assistance by which alone a Bill could be carried through the House—if that was a part of the proposal, there would be no objection to the Bill being referred to a Select Committee.

MR. WYLIE (Dumbartonshire) thought that the mover of the Second Reading of this Bill had acted wisely in bringing this question before the House. English police enjoyed superior advantages not because they were a superior body of men, but because it was the custom in England to pay larger salaries than were usual in Scotland. Small salaries were a relic of the old times when Scotland was poor, but in late years the prosperity of Scotland had been progressing by leaps and bounds. He quite concurred with the remarks of the Lord Advocate that even if there should be a small addition to the rates, the people of Scotland were quite able to afford such an increase. Therefore that should not be any hindrance to their acceptance of the Bill. He repudiated the accusation which had been made as to bribery of the Scotch Members by the police; he at any rate had heard nothing of such a thing.

SIR ROBERT REID (Dumfries Burghs) said this was a matter upon which all Scotch Members, with the distinguished exception of the Member for Mid-Lanark, took the same view, and they did not want a nominal Second Reading which would be equivalent to the extinction of all hopes of further procedure. He ventured to ask the Lord Advocate to tell them whether, if the Select Committee to which the Bill was referred approved of it, the Government would give such facilities as would enable the sense of the House to be taken on the measure.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: "My intentions are strictly honourable." There is no idea of shelving the Bill. I distinctly undertake, so far as in me lies, to see to it that the Committee is properly appointed, and that the Report of that Committee shall be submitted, if possible, to the House. Of course, it must be understood that I am not master of the time of the House, and cannot give an absolute guarantee. The starring of a Bill, while exempting it from the operation of any Order which cuts down all but Government business, does not give a guarantee that sufficient time to pass that Bill against any obstruction which might arise in the House would be afforded. If hon. Members will look after obstruction, I shall be able to look after the starring of the Bill.

MR. HEYWOOD JOHNSTONE (Sussex, Horsham) said, though it might not be thought in good taste for an English Member to intervene in a Scotch debate, he thought he was justified in doing so in order to draw attention to two or three matters which the mover of the Bill might take into consideration when the Bill made its appearance before the Select Committee. They would have to be prepared for a very large increase of the pension fund, and there was also the question of the waste of men which took place under the English system. Many men of thirty-five years of age who were entitled to a pension, but who could go on well to the age of fifty, took their pensions at that age to protect them, because if they stayed longer in the service the pension might be lost, possibly through some breach of discipline. The promoters of the Bill would also do well to put in some additional sum for extra pay. Those were a few questions which they would do well to consider when the Bill got before the Select Committee.

MR. ALEXANDER CROSS (Glasgow, Camlachie) declared that the people of Scotland wanted an efficient police force. They could not have it if the best men were taken away by the competition of English counties and boroughs. This Bill would tend to check that competition, and it was for that very purpose that this Bill was introduced.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

MR. JOHN WILSON (Falkirk Burghs) said that, in view of the attitude taken by the Lord Advocate, he proposed that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee. He trusted that the Government would do all they could to help the measure.

MR. CALDWELL said he was astonished that the mover of the Bill should be asked to have it referred to a Select Committee. He saw no reason for such a course being adopted; the Bill had better be passed at once. It had passed the Second Reading unanimously, and had he been one of its promoters he would have advised that the opportunity should be seized to pass it into law. Let it be sent to a Grand Committee, pass it through Grand Committee, put it down as the first Order after Whitsuntide, and the Bill would certainly pass. He warned the mover that he was adopting a dangerous course and, as he thought, a wrong one, and if the Bill failed to pass he hoped he would not be blamed.

Bill committed to a Select Committee.

COMPENSATION FOR DAMAGE TO CROPS, ETC., BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order for Second Reading read.

MR. HUDSON (Hertfordshire, Hitchin): The Bill which I desire the House to read to-day is a very short one, containing only one clause of five lines, but it is a Bill which will do away with the hardships from which all those who farm land by the side of railways suffer; who now see their crops damaged by fire caused through sparks or cinders emitted by railway engines, and are unable to claim compensation, the railway companies claiming to be protected by statute. All that is asked by this Bill is that railway engines should be put on the same footing as locomotives which travel upon the roads, and made liable for any damage they do. It will probably be said by the representatives of railway companies that the railways have adopted the best known methods for preventing the emission of sparks from the engines, and no doubt the different lines vary materially in this respect, thousands being seen on some lines and very few upon others. What is the secret? That on some lines a spark catcher is inserted in the funnel of the engine. If that was done with all engines very little damage would result.

In support of this motion I might read an anonymous letter which I received a few days ago with the intimation that it might suit my business. Not knowing what my business might be, I opened the letter and read—

> "If fire break out in the shocks or standing corn, and it be destroyed, he that kindleth the fire should surely make restitution."

That is really the principle which is embodied in this Bill. I notice that no Amendment to the Bill has been put down. I suppose that the railway directors who occupy seats in the House either admit the justice of the measure or think that the Bill is of such small importance that it is not worth their while to oppose it. Without detaining the House further, I beg to move that the Bill be read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

*MR. JEFFREYS (Hampshire, N.), speaking in support of the Bill, said the object of the Bill was to put railway locomotives upon the same footing as road locomotives. It was only fair that if through the emission of sparks from the engines they damaged the crops of the farmers whose land lay by the side of the railway, the company should be made liable. In the previous session this question had been brought to the attention of the Board of Trade, and questions were asked as to whether the President of the Board of Trade was aware that the railway engines did not carry spark arresters, or in any case whether any inspector had looked into the engines to see if they did carry spark arresters, and the reply of the right hon. Gentleman was No; that the Board of Trade, although they were supposed to see to the spark arresters, were not in a position to do so. A great many of these so-called sparks, were not sparks at all, but cinders varying in size from a quarter of an inch in length to an inch and a half, and it was only reasonable to suppose that if these were thrown into a field of growing corn they would do a great deal of damage. It was almost impossible to trace the engines which emitted these sparks, but in the case of Twinch v. Great Western Railway a man actually saw the fire begin, and he was able to trace the train and the locomotive. The case went to trial afterwards, and damages were assessed against the railway company. There was another case, against the Midland Railway Company. In that case the sparks were seen coming out of the engine. But these cases were notable exceptions, and generally nobody could trace the sparks when they came from an engine. Very often the damage was done in the dark, and in the case of an express train it was almost impossible to trace the engine. If the railway companies took reasonable precautions, and had their engines fitted with spark guards, that damage would not be done. The guards were taken out of the engines in order that the speed might be greater. Last year he asked a question of the First Lord of the Treasury about the bringing forward of this Bill, and the right hon. Gentleman stated that the President of the Board of Agriculture had not had notice that a great deal of damage had been done. The Central Chamber of Agriculture in a very short time afterwards gathered information with respect to the serious and widespread injuries inflicted on agriculturists throughout the country on account of fires caused by sparks from engines. The Return related to seventy-five separate fires in eleven different counties.

The law had been laid down that railway companies had a statutory right to run locomotives along their own lines, and so long as they took reasonable precautions and were not guilty of negligence they might do what they liked on their own lines. They were not liable to pay compensation for damage unless they failed to take reasonable precautions. He thought he had shown that they did not take reasonable precautions in this matter. In order to attain a high rate of speed they took out the spark protectors or arresters which were intended to prevent the fire and cinders from coming out. In dry summers there were many farmers whose crops were liable to be set on fire by sparks from engines, and it appeared to him that this was especially so in the case of the southern railways. Crops might be absolutely destroyed by fire and yet no compensation was allowed. Surely he had made out a good case. If the railway companies obtained statutory powers which gave them a great monopoly, they certainly were supposed to run their railways without causing loss or damage to their neighbours. Surely when they did great damage to the property of men who were in many cases small farmers, it was not unreasonable that they should pay for it.

MR. MUNRO FERGUSON (Leith Burghs): The damage complained of in Scotland from this nuisance is more in respect of woods than crops, and the excellent measure which is now before the House could not have been introduced at a more appropriate period of the year, because it is during the month of March that in Scotland, at all events, most damage is done to plantations. A plantation of my own was set on fire by sparks from engines no fewer than eleven times in the course of one month, but, although the particulars were taken down at the time by witnesses, I was advised by my legal agent that it would be useless to bring the matter before the courts, because it was hopeless to expect any compensation.

Last year, when various questions were being asked the President of the Board of Trade on the matter, I asked whether the increase in the number of fires in recent years, which I think is indisputable, was not due to the great increase in the number of rapid trains, and the President of the Board of Trade said he had no information on the subject. The Royal Scottish Arboricultural Society sent out circulars, with schedules, which were filled up. I think a copy of the Returns was sent to the Board of Trade, but at any rate thirty-one examples of fires were given, twenty-one of which related to woods and plantations. The damage done in the twenty-one cases of woods and plantations amounted to £2,300, and in only nine of these was application made to the railway company for compensation, and in one of the nine only was the claim (of £4) paid. The feeling is that it is useless to go to the court, because it is impossible to obtain any compensation. The damage to the agricultural crops is also considerable. It is estimated at about £830. This Bill is called the "Sparks Bill." I think it should be called the "Live Coals Bill," for the size of the sparks is anything between one and two inches. I remember once on a journey between Stranraer and Ayr watching the coals as they were ejected from the engine, and the size of the coals was enough to set any place on fire. It would be impossible under these circumstances to keep any plantation free from the risk of fire.

It should surely be possible to prevent this state of things. I believe it is stated that there is a remedy before the law, but that is not our experience, and it has been laid down by high legal authority on the law of railways that there is no such remedy. An example is given in the case of the owners of a flax store near a railway line. The place was set on fire by a spark from a passing engine, and the proprietors brought an action for damages, on the ground that the engine was improperly constructed, in respect that it had no spark arrester. In reference to that case, "Deas on the Law of Railways" contains the following:

> "The defenders maintained that in the more modern engines the use of spark arresters had been given up, both because they impaired the efficiency of the engine and because other means as efficacious to prevent the issue of sparks were adopted. The House of Lords held, affirming the First Division, that no negligence had been proved against the company; and the observation was made by Lord M'Laren, that railway companies are not under a legal disability to improve the efficiency of their engines merely because such improvement may tend in some degree to increase the risk of setting fire to adjacent property."

In delivering judgment in the case referred to, the Lord Chancellor said—

> "It is now well-settled law that in order to establish a case of liability against a railway company, under such circumstances it is essential for the pursuers to establish negligence. The railway company having the statutory power of running along the line with locomotive engines, which in the course of their running are apt to discharge sparks, no liability rests upon the company, merely because the sparks emitted by an engine have set fire to adjoining property. But the defenders, although possessing the statutory power, are undoubtedly bound to exercise it reasonably and properly, and the test whether they exercise the power reasonably and properly appears to me to be this. They are aware that locomotive engines running along the line are apt to emit sparks. Knowing this, they are bound to use the best practicable means, according to the then state of knowledge, to avoid the emission of sparks, which may be dangerous to adjoining property; and if they, knowing that the engines are liable thus to discharge sparks, do not adopt that reasonable precaution, they are guilty of negligence, and cannot defend themselves by relying upon the statutory power. About the law as I have thus expressed it, I do not think there is any controversy between the parties to this litigation."

What we maintain is that reasonable precaution has not been adopted, and that serious damage is done for which at present there is no remedy. I beg cordially to support the Bill.

MR. SPEAR (Devonshire, Tavistock): As a farmer coming from a constituency where fires have occurred through sparks from railway engines, I desire to express gratitude to the hon. Members who are moving and supporting this Bill, and to express the hope that it will pass, as it surely is most reasonable to provide that where damage is done by fire from engines compensation should be paid by the owners of those engines. As has been pointed out by the hon. Gentleman who moved the Second Reading of the Bill, locomotive engines used on the road are already liable for compensation for damage caused by fire, and it cannot be anything but reasonable that the same principle should apply to fire caused by railway engines. It is needless for me to assure the House that agriculturists do not fail to appreciate the advantage of railway communication in their districts, but at the same time we feel, as has been proved, I think, by the hon. Member, that these fires occur largely from the lack of precaution and care on the part of the railway companies. We think that if the railway companies in case of neglect had to pay for that neglect, they would be far more careful to avoid causing fires. I would say this further —farmers find it difficult enough already to carry on their industry with a fair degree of success, without having unnecessary difficulties of this kind placed in their way; and I venture to say that the present moment is most opportune for this Bill. If it is passed it will do considerable good to agriculturists, and to the owners of plantations and fences, and will not cast an unreasonable burden on the railway companies themselves.

Mr. BANBURY (Camberwell, Peckham): There is undoubtedly a good deal to be said for this Bill. There is a good deal of hardship caused, especially in dry summers, by sparks from engines, and undoubtedly both in England and Scotland a good deal of damage is done, not only to plantations, but also to the various crops close to the railway. But I do not think that the matter is quite so simple as my hon. friends who moved and seconded the Second Reading seem to think. They founded their arguments in favour of the Bill on the fact that locomotives on highways are obliged to pay for any damage that they may cause. It seemed to me that they have totally forgotten that in the one case the locomotive passes along the highway which is provided by the county council or the nation, or whoever it may be, at no expense to the owner of the locomotive unless he happens to live in that particular parish; but the railway company have paid considerable sums for the land on which their engines travel. They have not only paid the owners for the land, but they have caused a considerable improvement in the value of the adjoining land by bringing railway communication into the districts in question. My hon. and learned friend the Member for the Hitchin Division says that compensation has been paid above the market value of the land which is purchased. I think I have shown that a railway company is in a very different position from the owner of a road locomotive. A railway company, after having spent large sums in buying the land and making the line, must surely be allowed to carry on its business. If damage is done through the negligence of the company, then undoubtedly compensation should be paid. My hon. friend who seconded the Bill spoke of the coals which came from the engines. Did he photograph the coals when they came out, or how did he know that they came out?

Mr. JEFFREYS: I can answer that. They were seen to fall out of the engines.

Mr. BANBURY: My hon. friend says there are no Amendments put down. I do not think we can put Amendments down at this stage. Amendments are put down on the Committee stage, and I certainly intend to put down an Amendment, which I hope will be carried. In remedying what is perhaps a hardship we must take care that we do not create another hardship. It seems to me that the Bill is very carelessly drawn, for this reason—the Bill says "where damage is caused to crops, hedges, or plantations." Supposing that the crops, hedges, and plantations are there, they cannot be moved away; but I think it ought to be carefully indicated that the Bill should apply only to growing crops, and not to crops left carelessly by the side of the railway. There is nothing in the Bill to prevent a man having a damaged crop from collecting it and putting it in an exposed place by the side of the railway, where it would be exposed to the sparks from passing trains, and then coming and saying, "This has been burned by the railway company. It was an excellent crop at the time it was gathered in." We know that such things are done, and they will be done in future. Therefore, before this Bill passes into law I think it should be carefully safeguarded by words which will show that it is only to apply practically to growing crops. The Amendment I put on the Paper last year was to insert the word "growing" in front of the word "crops." I do not know whether that is a proper Amendment, which would carry out my object, but there are lawyers in the House, and if it is wrong they will correct me. I should think that it is very important that in safeguarding the interests of the farmers it should be borne in mind that railways are of great importance to the country, and that a sum equal to nearly double the amount of the National Debt is invested in them. We should not allow ourselves to be actuated too much by sentiment.

*MR. STUART WORTLEY (Sheffield, Hallam) said he was not quite sure that he could not rest the case against the Bill on the speeches of the mover and seconder. They limited their arguments to cases where it could be shown that there was negligence on the part of the railway companies. In such cases the law of England applied, and no Bill such as this was necessary. If his hon. friend had shown any case in which the existing law would not really suffice to punish a railway company for negligence, he could understand the bringing forward of the measure. If these cases of damage arose from the failure to use proper spark arresters, the owners of the crops or plantations had their action at law. They had chosen the wrong remedy by coming to Parliament with this Bill.

He was not acquainted with the procedure before Scotch sheriffs, and he did not know why proof was more difficult in Scotland than in England. So far as Scotland was concerned, the remedy should be so to amend the procedure under the Scotch law as to obtain the result that, where negligence had been shown, the consequence of that negligence should be visited on those liable for it, and who the law said already should suffer for it. It was no use appealing to the analogy of the road locomotive. By the law applicable to road locomotives, if negligence was proved, but was shown to be the negligence only of the driver or stoker of the locomotive, the owner of the locomotive got off altogether. In the case of railway locomotives, although the company's servants might be guilty of negligence, the railway company alone was liable. If the Bill passed, the law would revert to the provisions of the ordinary common law of nuisance, and if sparks from engines were a nuisance, railway companies would be liable. If they were not they would possibly not be made liable even if this Bill passed. He found from reference to the best-known text-book on the law of torts, that in order to prove nuisance it was necessary to prove that the property was used in a manner not necessary to the ordinary enjoyment of the property. Therefore if they passed this Bill they would find themselves no better off. Parliament had as clearly as possible laid down that the property of railway companies had to be used for a specific purpose—the running of trains; and that purpose could not be carried on without a certain amount of risk. That risk had been fully discounted by compensation, and was more than set off by the fact that in many of the parishes the railway companies paid as much as 75 per cent. of the rates. In the case of some parishes the railway companies paid the whole of the rates. If they passed this Bill, not merely would they make a new departure in the fundamental principles of our law, but a great injustice would be done. He submitted that the grievance was one of procedure and proof, and not of the substantive law of the case. The substantial justice of the case did not require that railway companies should be made liable for this particular kind of damage. He respectfully asked the House to reject the Bill.

MR. GRIFFITH BOSCAWEN (Kent, Tunbridge) said the hon. Member for Peckham had urged that the Bill ought not to pass because the owners of the railways had spent a lot of money buying the land and constructing the lines. That was perfectly true, but they had not bought the adjoining land. If in the conduct of their business they did injury to property on that land, and were guilty of negligence, they should pay compensation. His right hon. friend the Member for the Hallam Division said that Parliament had conferred certain definite rights on railway companies, and that there was no reason now why they should go back on that.

*MR. STUART WORTLEY: I said that Parliament had conferred certain rights and laid certain duties on them.

MR. GRIFFITH BOSCAWEN said the locomotives were now provided with forced draught. It was quite likely that the conditions had so changed that it was perfectly right the law should be amended. Railway companies naturally objected to this Bill, and would like to throw agriculturists back on all the legal technicalities involved in proving negligence in order that it might be impossible for them to obtain compensation. What agriculturists wanted was a simple Bill by which they could get rid of these technicalities. They felt they had a legitimate grievance, and asked Parliament to deal with it.

Sir E. DURNING - LAWRENCE (Cornwall, Truro) said he had several times suffered from fires, one of which destroyed nearly 100 acres of trees. Many thousands of pounds would not have repaid him for that damage. Compensation was nothing to him; what he wanted was prevention. The House might not be aware that quite recently the chimneys of nearly all the locomotives had been lowered to the smallest possible level. The railway companies should be compelled to adopt means to prevent the emission of sparks, so that fires could not take place.

Mr. BELL (Derby): I just want to say a few words as to how this Bill affects the employees of the railway companies. What has hitherto been said has had reference to the effect on other people, and I desire to intervene from another standpoint. I have had considerable personal knowledge of railway working, and I am not with outexperience of fires caused by sparks from engines. I have witnessed such fires, and I have knowledge of cases where compensation has been paid by railway companies for damage done in that way; and I have known cases where damage has occurred by reason of arson having been committed—cases in which the crops alongside the railway have been set on fire, not accidentally by sparks from an engine, but wilfully by some persons or persons unknown.

As to this Bill, I do not say for a moment that I am going to oppose it, but I am bound to declare that, as it stands, it is not framed in a manner that satisfies me. It seems to me to leave too much scope for evildoers—that is to say, it seems to me to make railway companies responsible for the acts of ill-disposed persons. The hon. Member who moved the Second Reading said there were many cases of fires in which they could not trace the engines from which the sparks had come. If such is the case, I fail to see how you can rely upon the Bill to bring home responsibility against the railway company and show that it was the railway engine which set fire to the crop or the wood. Where proof is forthcoming, I certainly hold that the railway company should be responsible. To my mind, it is desirable that a provision should be inserted in the Bill requiring railway companies to adopt protectors or spark arresters to their locomotive boilers. I happen to know that the absence of such things very often operates to the detriment of the employees themselves, who are perfectly innocent of offence in the matter. If the Bill passes in its present form, the companies might issue instructions to their employees, ordering that they should not allow sparks to be emitted from the engines. The case would be similar to that of the emission of smoke from locomotives. The London County Council, in a large number of instances, prosecute railway companies for allowing smoke to be emitted from their locomotives. When these prosecutions take place the companies punish their employees by fine or suspension. Hon. Members here will agree with me that it is a matter of great difficulty, nay, that it is a matter of impossibility, to work engines with coal without some smoke being emitted, therefore I say that the companies in inflicting punishment inflict it for what their men cannot help. That is why I have risen to say a few words on this matter.

The hon. Gentleman who spoke last referred to railway companies making their engine chimneys lower than usual. I deny the accuracy of that statement. It is not that the chimneys are lower than usual, but that the boilers are getting higher than usual. The height of the chimneys is exactly the same as it was when the boilers were much smaller. We know that the public demand greater speed—they want to get from one point to another in much less time—and the result of all this is that the engines have to be worked much harder, and the difficulty of working the trains is much greater for the employees. Therefore there is some danger of their being subjected to fines and suspensions if the Bill passes as it is in its present form. If in Committee the Bill can be so amended that the object in view can be attained without injuring the railway companies in cases in which they are not guilty and without injuring the employees in cases where they are not guilty, even though the company may have been negligent in not providing against the emission of sparks from their engines, I shall be glad to see it amended. I hope those in charge of the Bill will bear in mind the few remarks I have made on these particular points, and so make the Bill easier to pass from the employees' point of view, the companies' point of view, and also in the interest of those who suffer through these fires.

MR. VICARY GIBBS (Hertfordshire, St. Albans) said the hon. Member seemed to be afraid that the Bill would have the effect of punishing the railway companies for the burning of crops with which the companies had nothing whatever to do. He was quite sure that those who were introducing this Bill had no such desire. The object was that the companies should be made liable when negligence had been proved against them in the construction of their engines. It was all very well to tell poor farmers that they had their remedy at law. At present, even if they were fortunate enough to detect the particular engine that caused the fire, the duty was cast on the farmers of proving that that particular engine was negligently constructed. If this Bill became law, all they would have to show was that sparks came from an engine running on the company's line. He hoped the House would recognise that that was a very reasonable and proper distinction in the interest of those who had crops growing in the neighbourhood of a railway. His hon. friend the Member for Peckham sat for a constituency which could hardly be described as an agricultural one. The "crops and growing timber" in Peckham were almost a negligible quantity. His contention that a farmer might collect damaged crops and pile them up in the neighbourhood of a railway was ridiculous. Prevention was much better than compensation. If the onus was cast on the railway companies of paying for damage when it was proved that they had caused it, they were perfectly capable of preventing that damage, and they would prevent it.

MR. CORRIE GRANT (Warwickshire, Rugby): Some of the arguments adduced this afternoon in support of the Bill are not likely to commend themselves to the House. We have had Moses instanced as a legislator. An hon. Member said he was going to follow Moses. But will he accept Moses as an authority in dealing with the land question? Is he prepared every fifty years (I think it was) to redistribute the whole of the land of the country, and to resettle the land system? Another hon. Member said he should support this Bill because he had had his wood burned. There is no argument which this House resents, and rightly resents, more than a personal argument—the demand for a change in legislation because of a personal injury. I would not support the Bill for a moment, if a hundred different crops had been injured, unless there was a general grievance. What I complain of is that the Bill has been supported on both sides because of personal injury suffered. Such an argument ought not to have been put forward in support of the measure at all. The question the House has to consider is a very simple one. Is there a hardship made out in the present state of the law? Does the present law put the onus in the right place? If it does not, ought it to be changed? Perhaps hon. Members who support the Bill have not brought forward as many cases of injury received as might be found, but I think it is the experience of every Member who has been before an agricultural constituency, that if one matter is mentioned to him by the farmers who have railway lines running through their farms it is that they are suffering from this grievance, and at the present time have no adequate remedy.

The hon. Member for the Hallam Division opposed the Bill first of all because, I think he said, he was a railway director. That is not a reason likely to commend itself to the House. He opposed it secondly because railway companies in some parishes paid 75 per cent. of the rates. What about the parishes in which they pay only 5 per cent.? Are they to pay damages where they pay 5 per cent. of the rates, and no damages where they pay 75 per cent? What have the rates imposed upon the railway companies to do with this grievance of the farmers? All the advocates of the measure are called upon to prove on this motion for Second Reading is that a grievance exists. I submit that the fact that farmers have constantly suffered from this damage is not met by the answer that the railway companies are unfairly rated in other parishes. I think the hon. Member for Derby made a fair criticism of the Bill when he said the language is not as accurate as it ought to be. That, however, is a reason for not rejecting the Second Reading, but for amending the Bill in Committee, and if the Bill gets into Committee, as I hope it will, the hon. Members responsible have already made an offer to make the Bill as thorough, as simple, and as effective as possible, and it will have to be all those things if it is to work with any measure of success.

COLONEL MILWARD (Warwickshire, Stratford-upon-Avon): Nobody who travels a great deal by railway can doubt that there is a case for some Bill of this kind. Every summer there are crops destroyed by sparks from engines. The advocates of the railway companies appear to be rather frightened as to the injury this measure will inflict upon the companies. I do not believe this House would ever pass a measure which was unjust to railway companies; the railway companies are far too largely represented and have far too many spokesmen for that to happen. I do not like to quote America, but the fact remains that this pamphlet by Professor Shaw, who was employed by the Royal Agricultural Society to visit America and see what was done there, will have to be answered by the companies. There is no doubt that in America year after year improvements have been made; these arresters become more and more scientific; they do not stop the draught, or prevent the engines attaining a very high rate of speed, but they do prevent the emitting of these hot cinders or sparks which set fire to the crops. What is done in America can certainly be done in this country. I admit that the railway companies ought to have a considerable allowance of time, perhaps a couple of years, in which to adapt these arresters to their engines, but it is perfectly evident that it can be done, and is done, without any great expense to the companies. Therefore, in the interests of the farmers I think this Bill should be allowed to go to Second Reading in order to be considered in Committee, and the interests of the railway companies can then be safeguarded as far as is necessary.

Mr. Corrie Grant.

MR. PERKS (Lincolnshire, Louth): I am the representative of an agricultural Division, and also, to some extent, a railway director. I can therefore take a perfectly dispassionate view of this little Bill. It seems to me that the grievance is not so serious a one as has been represented. It is practically a question of who is to bear the expense of the insurance. It is unquestionably the fact—and the hon. Member for the Tunbridge Division would have known it if he had been at all familiar with compensation cases—that a landowner in selling his land to a railway company or the construction of a line receives very considerable compensation for those very dangers to which allusion has been made. Therefore, if the railway company is now to bear the whole onus of compensating the farmer or landowner or tenant for loss by fire, it will practically pay twice over for the same thing. But the grievance is of much smaller dimensions than one would suppose from the exertions of this professor who has been travelling the country photographing cinders at the expense of the Royal Agricultural Society. Looking at the matter as a comparatively small one, and believing that as soon as the law has been accurately ascertained it will be the duty and well within the power of either the farmer or the railway proprietor to pay the small insurance necessary for protection against this danger, I shall certainly support the Second Reading of the Bill.

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.): As a representative of an urban constituency I bring an open mind to this matter. I want to put one point to the House which has not yet been much dealt with. This evil, and it is an undoubted evil, arises very largely from the omission of the railway companies to take proper steps to secure those improvements in engines which would prevent sparks and cinders being scattered. I am afraid the difficulty of proving negligence under the existing law is practically deterrent, and makes it really impossible for the farmers to obtain compensation. As between the two interested parties, the railway company, whose plea is that they have done all they can to avoid negligence, and the farmer, who is entirely passive in the matter, I am inclined to think, on the principle of abstract justice, that the onus of proof ought rather to attach to the railway company than to the farmer. But I do not think it necessary to go quite so far as that. I believe the grievance of the whole question arises from the fact that the companies rely on the difficulty of proving negligence, and do not take the proper precautions which are taken in other countries. I believe they will not do this unless the liability is thrown upon them, and therefore, although I do not at all deny that there is some difficulty in the matter, I think we should find, if this Bill is passed, the first thing the companies would do would be to use those inventions which are used in other countries, and by way of prevention more than by way of providing for damages we should get rid of this grievance.

*SIR JOHN STIRLING-MAXWELL (Glasgow, College): I think the House ought to realise that the claim made on behalf of the railway companies is nothing less than that the companies have an inherent right to burn other people's property. I admit frankly that in the result this Bill will probably go further than appears on the surface, and perhaps further than is indicated in the Memorandum attached to the measure, but I am quite prepared to join issue upon the general principle that these companies have the right to burn other people's property. It is quite obvious that railway companies do acquire land in order that their trains may run to the benefit of the public, that their engines must work in all seasons of the year, and that accidents must occasionally arise from sparks; but the question is, whether the expense of those accidents ought to be borne by the railway companies, or by the unfortunate people through whose property they run. I have no doubt whatever that the expense ought to be a charge on the railway companies. The question of woodlands raised by the hon. Member for the Leith Burghs has not been much touched upon. In the case of woodlands the crop is of much greater value than ordinary agricultural produce, because it is of longer growth. The interpretation of the law as it at present stands is a great discouragement to the increase of woodlands in parts of the country where woodlands ought to be increased. No one who knows the highlands of Scotland, or the waste-lands in the north of England or in Ireland, can doubt that it would be a great advantage to the country if those districts were afforested, and no one who knows anything about the economy of forestry can doubt that such plantations are most profitable when they are in the neighbourhood of cheap transit for the wood that is grown. That is precisely where it is most dangerous to grow wood. A person wishing to make a plantation in the neighbourhood of a railway must face the fact that on each side of the line a waste space of eighty yards must be left, then a deep trench provided to stop the surface-fire of heather or other inflammable materials on the ground, and a strong hedge planted. I know that those circumstances have been a strong deterrent. The question of the course taken by railway companies to prevent the escape of sparks has been raised. I cannot pretend to be an expert on the construction of engines, but I do know that whether or not railway companies take precautions they certainly expect their engines to create fires during dry weather, because on such occasions the lines are patrolled, so that the possibility of fire is in the minds of the directors. Under these circumstances, I sincerely hope that this Bill will not only pass its Second Reading, but will be carried into law.

MR. LAWSON WALTON (Leeds, S.): This very innocent measure proposes to introduce a very grave legal anomaly. The general law is supposed to be infringed in regard to a class of cases of negligence extremely limited in character, and to the detriment of an industry which, though sufficiently large in its scope, is only one of many industries carried on in immediate contact with our railway systems.

I submit to the House that the existing law under which the railway companies have to conduct their enterprises is quite a sufficient protection to private property. It is the duty of a railway company to take all due care in the construction of their engines, in the provision of their appliances, and in the actual working of their locomotives. This Bill does not propose to infringe that general rule; it introduces an exception not applicable even to all the machinery in connection with the locomotives on our railway systems, but in connection only with that very small department of its mechanical appliances which has relation to the emission of sparks. I ask the House if they will pass a measure of legislation, in regard to which the rule applicable to the imposition of liability upon a railway company remains the same in regard to all their mechanical appliances, except when you come down to such details as are concerned in the emission of sparks, in regard to which subordinate class of mechanical appliances there is to be a liability on the railway company, although it may be that they have used the utmost degree of care to prevent any accident occurring. I submit that that is a very grave anomaly. Under the law as it now exists, if a farmer suffers injury to his crops or hay stacks by the emission of sparks, he has only to show that there is a spark-catcher well known which might be introduced by the railway company in connection with the construction of their engines. He certainly does not suffer from lack of sympathy on the part of the jury, and if a sympathetic agricultural jury come to the conclusion that a spark-catcher might easily have been obtained by the railway company and ought to have been attached to the engine, the farmer is entitled to compensation. It is said that the law has become unworkable because negligence can never be proved. I entirely dissent from that proposition. In my own experience I have known many cases in which negligence has been proved, and I have known many more cases which the railway companies have settled out of court, because they knew that with an agricultural jury the farmer would have had all the chances in his favour. What is graver still is that this is a protective measure in the interests of a particular industry. The farmer, and the farmer alone, is to be protected, and he is to be protected not in regard to all his property, but in regard only to a very narrow class of property. His crops, haystacks, hedges, and perhaps woodlands, are to be protected, but if his house is burned down, from exactly the same cause and under the same circumstances, this measure gives him no protection whatever. And what is to happen to other industries than agriculture? If I am the proprietor of a mill, and the roof of my mill is fired by a spark, I am to be ruined without compensation, but the fortunate farmer whose crop close by is consumed by fire, caused by perhaps the same engine, is to be in the happy position of being provided by the railway company with a complete indemnity. Under this measure there is to be one law for the farmers and another law for the rest of the community; one rule applicable to agricultural property and an entirely different rule, enforced on different principles, applicable to other portions of the community. This would but render confusion worse confounded, and for these reasons I ask the House to reject this unprincipled measure.

Mr. JACKSON (Leeds, N.): I desire to say a few words against this Bill. I am quite willing to accept the challenge of the hon. Member who desired to place before the House the issue that the railway companies claimed the liberty to burn other people's property without compensation. I think the hon. Member did not do justice to his own knowledge of the present law.

Sir J. STIRLING MAXWELL: I frankly admit the railway companies have the right under the existing law—

Mr. JACKSON: I will endeavour to make good my proposition, if you will permit me. What is the procedure by which a railway company obtains power to make its railway in the first place? My hon. friend appears to ignore altogether the fact that the railway company, when it takes land for the purpose of making a railway, pays compensation not only for the value of the land, but also for all consequential and future damage it may do. ["No."] I am not surprised that hon. Members dissent from this view, because it shows that they are really not aware of the law as it stands at present. It is open to the landowner, and the landowner exercises his option, to make a claim not only for the value of the land, but for all incidental and consequential damage to the remainder of his property. He is at liberty to set up a specific claim before the arbitrator if there is a risk of damage to his property, and he has therefore to let the land to the farmer at less rent, and the arbitrator will give him compensation for that. ["No."] Somebody says "No." Several cases have come within my own recollection—

*MR. HEMPHILL (Tyrone, N.): Does the right hon. Gentleman mean to say that the owner of the land can get compensated for the contingent risk of having his woodlands burned by sparks?

MR. JACKSON: Yes, I do.

*MR. HEMPHILL: There is no instance of it in the books.

MR. JACKSON: I mean if his land is taken. If a railway is made through a district for the first time, some land must be taken along the whole length of the line. Of course it is possible, but very improbable, that the limit of the land the company wished to take might just extend to the boundary of the land of that particular owner, and in that extremely improbable case the rule to which I have referred would not apply. It applies only when a portion of a man's property or land is taken. I may put it in this way. If a landowner has 100 acres of land, of which twenty are taken for the purpose of a railway, he has it within his power, as regards the remaining eighty acres, to set up a specific claim. If he can prove to the arbitrator that there is any danger of his suffering loss from sparks emitted on the railway, he can substantiate his claim for compensation. What the railway companies desire in all fairness is, not to be at liberty to burn other people's property, but to be protected from having to pay twice for the same risks.

The case which has been made out for this Bill is insufficient, I think, for this House to act upon in setting up the anomaly in law to which the hon. and learned Member opposite has so clearly called attention.

Let me point out what the position of the railway companies is. A railway company exercises its powers under statutory authority, and it has at the same time a statutory obligation. The company is liable for all cases of damage where either the engine has been improperly constructed or negligence in using it has been proved. The company therefore has compensated the landowner for his land; it has paid compensation for the risk of injury as regards the future; it has a statutory obligation to run its trains by means of these engines, and there is no known method by which this danger can be escaped. In that case Parliament has said, and I think fairly, that unless you can show that it is within the power of the railway companies to take adequate precaution against this danger, they ought not to be called upon to do that which is an impossibility. Therefore I venture to say that so far as the railway companies are concerned they are entitled to ask the House to reject this Bill. There is a perfect and perfectly simple remedy, which has been referred to by the hon. Gentleman for the Louth Division. It is in the power of the farmer to insure his crops against this risk for an almost infinitesimal charge. If there is the slightest proof of negligence the law is open to the farmer, and he can get compensation, so that it is not a fair position in which this Bill seeks to place railway companies. I think the case for the Bill has not been made out, and I hope the House will reject the measure. I have been hoping that we should hear from the President of the Board of Trade the views of the Government on this matter, so that the House should have their guidance in coming to a decision.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): In the few words I shall address to the House on the subject of this Bill it must be clearly understood that I am expressing not the opinion of the Government as a whole, but only my personal view.

This is a measure which has really more to do with the Department of my right hon. friend the Minister for Agriculture than with that over which I preside. It is essentially a Bill in the interests of agriculture. I notice that if the Bill was passed it would apply only to crops, hedges, or plantations, so that if by a spark from an engine an accident occurred to a store of any sort the owner of such store would be obliged to have recourse to the existing law, whereas the change in the law now proposed would apply to farmers, and farmers alone. As has been pointed out, the measure would not apply to all damage done even to the property of farmers, but it is an undoubtedly important change of law in regard to principle. If only the question of value were at issue, I do not think the amount of damage would be very great; but, as I say, the Bill if passed would introduce a very important alteration of principle into the law.

The present law governing the liability of railway companies has been very clearly stated by more than one speaker this afternoon. What is proposed by the Bill is, in a very limited number of cases, to change the whole principle of the law, and to say that a railway company should be liable, although no negligence whatever has been brought home to them. In the Memorandum affixed to the Bill the analogy of road locomotives is invoked. I would point out, however, that the cases of road and railway locomotives are entirely different, because the former are not confined to a single road, nor do the proprietors own the roads over which they travel, and no compensation has been paid in respect of adjacent lands.

If we once admit an important change of principle of this kind, will it be possible to resist further changes in the same direction should they be proposed? Suppose, for example, that a horse harnessed to a carriage were frightened by the passing of a railway train, and ran away; if the principle of the Bill is accepted, it appears to me it would be impossible to resist a claim for compensation in such and other cases.

These, in my opinion, are the objections to the present proposal. I do not deny that there may be difficulty in certain cases in proving negligence. At all events, it is possible that railway companies have not taken sufficient care in every instance to secure that their locomotives are provided with spark-preventing appliances. I do not know what my right hon. friend behind me may have to say to this, but I would earnestly suggest to him that his company, in concert with other railway companies, should look into this matter, and ascertain what are the best appliances used in other countries for the prevention of sparks. If they did that, and it was shown that the companies had adopted the best possible appliances, then the present law would probably be held to be sufficient to meet the evil. Speaking for myself, I shall vote against the Bill.

MR. RENSHAW rose to continue the debate.

MR. JEFFREYS: I beg to move that the Question be now put.

*MR. SPEAKER: Although the Bill has been under discussion but a comparatively short time, it appeared to me before the hon. Member rose that the debate was almost exhausted. I shall therefore, under the circumstances, accept the motion.

Question, "That the Question be now put," put, and agreed to.

Question put accordingly, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

The House divided:—Ayes, 307; Noes, 80. (Division List No. 40.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Allan, William (Gateshead)
Allen, C. P. (Glouc., Stroud)
Allsopp, Hon. George
Ambrose, Robert
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert H.
Atherley-Jones, L.
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balfour, Maj K. R. (Christch'rch
Banes, Major George Edward
Barlow, John Emmott
Bartley, George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen B.
Bell, Richard
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Black, Alexander William
Boland, John
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex
Boyle, James
Brand, Hon. Arthur G.
Broadhurst, Henry
Brookfield, Col. Montagu
Brown, Geo. M. (Edinburgh)
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Bull, William James
Bullard, Sir Harry
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burt, Thomas
Butcher, John George
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caine, William Sproston
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carew, James Laurence
Carvill, Patrick G. Hamilton
Causton, Richard Knight
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc.
Channing, Francis Allston
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Charrington, Spencer
Cochrane, Hon. Thos H. A. E.
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Colville, John
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Craig, Robert Hunter
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Crombie, John William
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Cust, Henry John C.

Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Delany, William
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Dillon, John
Dimsdale, Sir Joseph Cockfield
Dorington, Sir John Edward
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Doxford, Sir Wm. Theodore
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, James H.
Dunn, Sir William
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin

Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Elibank, Master of
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Ellis, John Edward
Emmott, Alfred

Faber, George Denison

Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
Fenwick, Charles
Finch, George H.
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robt. Penrose-
Fitzroy, Hon. Edward Algernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flynn, James Christopher
Forster, Henry William
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City of Lond.
Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin & Nairn
Gore, Hon. F. S. Ormsby-
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon. Geo. Joachim
Graham, Henry Robert
Grant, Corrie
Green, Walford D. (Wednesb'y)
Greene, Sir E. W. (Bury St. Edm
Griffith, Ellis J.
Groves, James Grimble
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hall, Edward Marshall
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Rt. Hn. Ld. G. (Midx
Hamilton, Marq. of (Londond'y
Hammond, John
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harris, F. Leverton (Tynem'th.
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir A. D.
Heath, Arthur H. (Hanley)
Heath, James (Staffords, N. W.)
Heaton, John Henniker
Helder, Augustus
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Chas. H.
Hermon-Hodge, Robt. Trotter
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (Bristol, E.)
Hobhouse, Henry (Somerset, E.
Holland, William Henry
Hope, J. F (Sheffield, Brightside
Hoult, Joseph
Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham)
Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hutton, John (Yorks., N. R.)
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennedy, Patrick James
Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (Denbigh
Kinloch, Sir John George Smyth
Lambert, George
Lawson, John Grant
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leighton, Stanley
Leng, Sir John
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S
Lloyd-George, David
Long, Col. C. W. (Evesham)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lough, Thomas
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, Rt. Hon. James (Kent
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth
Macdona, John Cumming
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
M'Calmont, Col. J. (Antrim, E.
M'Crae, George
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (Edinbro', W.
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, N.)
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Maple, Sir John Blundell
Markham, Arthur Basil
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfriessh.
Mellor, Rt. Hon. John William
Milner, Rt. Hn. Sir Frederick G.
Milton, Viscount
Milward, Colonel Victor
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Montagu, Hn. J. Scott (Hants
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Mooney, John J.
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morley, Charles (Breconshire)
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford
Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murphy, J.
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Nicholson, William Graham
Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Palmer, George Wm. (Reading
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Partington, Oswald
Pease, Herb. Pike (Darlington)
Peel, Hon. William Robert W.
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Perks, Robert William
Pilkington, Richard
Pirie, Duncan V.
Plummer, Walter R.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, Robert John
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Pym, C. Guy
Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Reid, Sir R. Threshie (Dumfries
Rentoul, James Alexander
Richards, Henry Charles
Ridley, Hon. M. W (Stalybridge
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Roche, John
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Russell, T. W.
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Saunderson, Rt. Hn. Col. E. J.
Schwann, Charles E.
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seely, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B)
Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, E.)
Smith, James Parker (Lanarks
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spear, John Ward
Spencer, E. (West Bromwich)
Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
Stanley, Edward Jas. (Somerset
Stevenson, Francis S.
Stewart, Sir M. J. M'Taggart
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Stroyan, John
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Sullivan, Donal
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Ox. Univ.
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Alfred (Glamorgan, E.
Thomas, David Alfred (Merth'r
Thomas, F. Freeman- (Hastings
Thomson, F. W. (York, W. R.)
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomkinson, James
Tufnell, Col. Edward
Tully, Jasper
Valentia, Viscount
Wallace, Robert
Walrond, Rt Hn. Sir William H.
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Warner, Thomas C. T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Welby, Lt.-Cl. A. C. E. (Taunt'n
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh., N.
Wilson-Todd, W. H. (Yorks.)
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Young, Commander (Berks, E)
Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Jeffreys and Mr. Munro Ferguson.

NOES.

Aird, Sir John
Anstruther, H. T.
Arrol, Sir William
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour,RtHnGeraldW(Leeds
Banbury, Frederick George
Beach,Rt.Hn.W.W.B.(Hants)
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Brigg, John
Brown, Alex. H. (Shropshire)
Cavendish, V.C.W.(Derbysh.)
Cawley, Frederick
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chapman, Edward
Coddington, Sir William
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Colomb, Sir John Chas. Ready
Cook, Frederick Lucas
Corbett,A.Cameron(Glasgow)
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davies,SirHoratioD.(Chath'm
Fergusson,RtHnSirJ.(Manc'r.
Fielden, Edwd. Brocklehurst
Firbank, Joseph Thomas
Fison, Frederick William
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)
Gordon,Maj.Evans-(Tr.Hmlts
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene,HenryD.(Shrewsbury)
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Harwood, George
Henderson, Alexander
Higginbottom, S. W.
Horner, Frederick William
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jackson, Rt. Hn. Wm. Lawies
Joicey, Sir James
Jones,DavidBrynmor(Sw'nsea
Kimber, Henry
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Kitson, Sir James
Knowles, Lees
Laws, Andrew Bonar
Lawrence, William F.
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Macartney, Rt. Hon. W. G. E.
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
M'Arthur, Chas. (Liverpool)
M'Killop, Jas. (Stirlingshire)
M'Laren, Charles Benjamin
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
Morris, Hn. Martin Henry F.
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Palmer, Sir C. M. (Durham)
Parker, Gilbert
Penn, John
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Renshaw, Charles Bine
Rickett, J. Compton
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John
Sadler,Col. Samuel Alexander
Sandys, Lieut.-Col. T. Myles
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Thornton, Percy M.
Wason, J. Cathcart (Orkney)
Whiteley, Geo. (York, W.R.)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wilson, H. J. (York, W.R.)
Woodhouse,SirJT(Huddersf d
Wortley, Rt.Hon.C.B.Stuart-
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Lawson Walton and Mr. Cohen.

Bill read a second time, and committed for To-morrow.

UNIVERSITY OF WALES (GRADUATES).

Bill to extend the privileges of the Graduates of the University of Wales, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Brynmor Jones, Mr. Alfred Thomas, Mr. Humphreys-Owen, Mr. Kenyon, and Colonel Pryce-Jones.

UNIVERSITY OF WALES (GRADUATES) BILL.

"To extend the privileges of the Graduates of the University of Wales," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Wednesday next, and to be printed. [Bill 88.]

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

First Report brought up, and read.

Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 8.]

PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE.

First Report brought up and read; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I think it would be for the convenience of the House that I should now announce that we do not propose to-morrow to take the appointment of the Committee on the Civil List as was originally intended, but that the first Order of the Day to-morrow will be an amendment of Standing Order No. 21. The Amendment will read as follows—

> "Provided also, that if any Member, or Members acting jointly, who have been suspended under this order from the service of the House, shall refuse to obey the direction of the Speaker, the Speaker shall call the attention of the House to the fact that recourse to force is necessary in order to compel obedience to his direction, and the Member or Members who have refused to obey his direction shall thereupon, and without further question put, be suspended from the service of the House during the remainder of the Session."

I give no notice with regard to the Gentlemen who did, unfortunately, refuse to obey your ruling, as it is evidently impossible to deal with persons during their enforced absence from this House. I also beg to give notice that I shall suspend the Twelve o'clock Rule to-morrow for the purpose of carrying the amendment of the Standing Order.

Adjourned at five minutes before Six of the clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Thursday, 7th March, 1901.

TOOK THE OATH.

The Lord Forbes took the Oath.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with :

Freshwater, Yarmouth, and Newport Railway [H.L.].
Alfreton Gas [H.L.].
Charing Cross, Euston, and Hampstead Railway (No. 1) [H.L.].
Charing Cross, Euston, and Hampstead Railway (No. 2) [H.L.].
Easton and Church Hope Railway [H.L.]
Lynton and Barnstaple Railway [H.L.].

The same were ordered to lie on the Table.

BETHLEM HOSPITAL BILL [H.L.].
BRIDEWELL HOSPITAL BILL [H.L.].
CHRIST'S HOSPITAL (LONDON) BILL [H.L.].
ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL BILL [H.L.].

Reports of His Majesty's Attorney General received, and ordered to lie on the Table.

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE.

Report from, That the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the following Bills ought to be dispensed with, and the Bills allowed to proceed :

Cowes Ferry [H.L.].
Mersey Docks and Harbour Board (Canada Dock Works, etc.) [H.L.].
Sutton-in-Ashfield Urban District (Water) [H.L.].
Dover Gas [H.L.].

That the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the

Birmingham City Tramways Bill [H.L.]

ought to be dispensed with, and the Bill allowed to proceed, provided that the powers to construct Tramways Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 be struck out of the Bill unless the consent of the local and road authorities shall be proved before the Committee on the Bill.

That the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the

Harrogate Corporation Bill [H.L.]

ought to be dispensed with, and the Bill allowed to proceed, provided that Clause 7 be struck out of the Bill.

That the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the

Brompton and Piccadilly Circus Railway (Extensions) Bill [H.L.]

ought to be dispensed with, and the Bill allowed to proceed, provided that Railways Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 be struck out of the Bill.

That the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the

Chester Corporation Tramways Bill [H.L.]

ought to be dispensed with, and the Bill allowed to proceed, provided that Tramways Nos. 1, 2, and so much of Tramway No. 6 as lies beyond the city boundary, be struck out of the Bill.

That the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the

South Western and Isle of Wight Junction Railway Bill [H.L.]

ought to be dispensed with, and the Bill allowed to proceed, provided that Clauses 6, 11, 56, 57, 58, and 59 be struck out of the Bill.

That the standing Orders not complied with in respect of the

Wigan Corporation Tramways Bill [H L.]

ought to be dispensed with, and the Bill allowed to proceed, provided that Tramway No. 2 be struck out of the Bill.

That the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the

Tyneside Tramways and Tramroads Bill [H.L.]

ought to be dispensed with, and the Bill allowed to proceed, provided that Tramway No. 3 be struck out of the Bill.

That the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the

South Lancashire Tramways Bill [H.L.]

ought to be dispensed with, and the Bill allowed to proceed, provided that Tramways Nos. 7 and 8 be struck out of the Bill.

Read, and agreed to.

BRISTOL, CLIFTON, AND WEST OF ENGLAND ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY BILL [H.L.].

WESTON-SUPER-MARE GAS BILL [H.L.]

WISBECH WATER BILL [H.L.].

OMAGH GAS BILL [H.L.].

ROYAL EXCHANGE ASSURANCE BILL [H.L.].

FAVERSHAM WATER BILL [H.L.].

SHEFFIELD DISTRICT RAILWAY BILL [H.L.].

CARDIFF RAILWAY BILL [H.L.].

NITRATE RAILWAYS COMPANY BILL [H.L.].

Read 1^a.

LONDON UNDERGROUND RAILWAYS.

Message from the Commons that they concur in the Resolution of this House, ordered to be communicated to them on Monday last on the subject of London Underground Railways, as desired by this House.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

CHINA, No. 2 (1901).

Despatch from His Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburg respecting the Russo-Chinese Agreement as to Manchuria.

QUEEN ANNE'S BOUNTY.

Annual Report and Accounts of the Governors for year ended 31st December, 1900.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP (PARTICULARS OF PIECE-WORK WAGES: PEN-MAKING).

Order made by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, dated 12th July, 1900, applying, with modifications, the provisions of Section 40 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1895, to factories and workshops in which is carried on the making of pens. Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES BILL [H.L.].

A Bill to amend the Acts relating to public libraries, museums, and gymnasiums, and to regulate the liability of managers of libraries to proceedings for libel—was presented by the Lord Windsor; read 1^a; and to be printed. (No. 16.)

CREMATION BILL [H.L.].

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

LORD MONKSWELL: My Lords, the object of this Bill is to provide for the regulation of the burning of human remains, and to enable burial authorities to establish crematoria. This power is at present exercised in many large towns under the various provisions of different private Acts of Parliament. As the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack stated last year* it is much better, both in order to save expense and also for the sake of uniformity, that the practice of cremation, which is a rapidly growing practice, should be conducted under some general Act of Parliament. It is proposed by this Bill that cremation should be partly under the jurisdiction of the Local Government Board and partly under that of the Home Office. The Bill provides that the plans of crematoria and the fees to be charged shall be approved by the Local Government Board, and that the Home Office shall regulate the conditions under which burning shall be permitted to take place. Clause 5 imposes penalties for any breach of these regulations; in Clause 7 it is provided that nothing in the Act shall authorise the burial authority to create or permit a nuisance; and by Clause 8 all private Act regulations are superseded by the regulations of the

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* See *The Parliamentary Debates* [Fourth Series], Vol. lxxxiv., pages 264 and 1269. (For an analysis of the discussions, see heading "Cremation Bill" in the Index to that volume.)

Home Office. Last year the noble Lord the Secretary for Scotland asked me to exclude Scotland from the Bill, but I have received a pressing letter from the Cremation Society of Scotland begging that Scotland may be included. On that point, however, I should be quite willing to do whatever the Secretary for Scotland may desire.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2^a."—(*Lord Monkswell.*)

LORD BELPER: My Lords, I do not think it is necessary for me to say much with regard to this Bill, as it is framed on the same lines as the Bill which left your Lordships' House last year. It may be within the recollection of the House that, to the Bill, I moved a good many Amendments on behalf of the Home Office, the object of the main portion of them being to make the Bill refer, not only to local authorities which in future might wish to start crematoria, but also to those local authorities which already had powers under private Acts. It was thought desirable that in regard to this matter local authorities should be subjected to general regulations made by the Secretary of State, and that crematoria established and kept up by private individuals should also be subjected to such regulations. In giving the assent of the Home Secretary to this Bill I have only to say that the right hon. Gentleman reserves the power to consider any points which may arise when the Bill reaches the other House.

On Question, agreed to. Bill read 2^a accordingly, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Monday next.

THE BRITISH POST OFFICE AT SALONIKA.

LORD NEWTON: My Lords, I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what steps are being taken to obtain from the Porte the recognition of the British post office established last year at Salonika; and whether he will undertake that the expenditure sanctioned for one year in connection with this post office shall be renewed in the event of the Porte still refusing recognition at the expiration of that period. This somewhat trivial question occupied the attention of the late Government for a considerable time, and has formed the subject of much correspondence and many inquiries both here and in another place. As your Lordships are no doubt aware, owing to the complete incapacity of the Turkish Government to provide a proper postal system, civilised Powers are in the habit of maintaining post offices there for the benefit of their own subjects. These post offices are not established for the purpose of earning a revenue, but in order to administer to the commercial necessities of these foreign communities.

In the town of Salonika British trade interests are still greater than the interests of any other Power. The British commercial community were under a considerable disadvantage for a long time through the absence of postal facilities, but after much trouble, and owing largely to representations from the Embassy at Constantinople and from the various British Chambers of Commerce in Turkey, the Post Office and the Foreign Office agreed, about a year ago, to the establishment of a British post office at Salonika, which has proved a complete success, and has conferred a great benefit on the British community. Following its usual practice, the Turkish Government refused its recognition of the office. In most cases, whether the Turkish Government grants its recognition or not to a foreign post office is a matter of very small importance, because the majority of these post offices are situated in seaport towns, and all that is necessary is to take the mails on board the vessel. But the case of Salonika is different. The mails are taken by train, and by the simple expedient of refusing to allow the British mails to be carried in the mail bags the Turkish Government have succeeded in making this post office a considerable expense to the British Government, whereas it would, if we were able to obtain our rights, prove a paying and remunerative concern.

I understand that the cost of the post office is £700 a year, and that the Treasury are disposed to discontinue providing this money. The expenditure is incurred in sending messengers daily to and from the Servian frontier. I do not think it is surprising, under the circumstances, that the Treasury should object to finding the £60 a month which this costs; but before any action is taken on this point I should like to make as strong an appeal as I can to the Foreign Secretary and the Postmaster-General to use their power in order that we may not perform what I can only describe as a somewhat humiliating surrender. I venture to think it is a very unwise procedure to sanction this expenditure for only one year, for that is obviously a temptation to the Turkish Government to obstruct the working of the office, in the hope that His Majesty's Government will get tired of providing the money. We are not asking from the Turkish Government any particular privilege for ourselves, but only to be allowed to enjoy the right which is enjoyed by other nations. The French Government and the Austrian Government have for some time maintained post offices in this town for the benefit of their respective communities, but they had at first the same obstruction and difficulties to surmount. What they were able to overcome we ought to be able to overcome.

A promise was actually obtained from the Turkish Foreign Office, in September last, that our request should be complied with. I am not one of those persons who are in favour of what I venture to call the continual bullying of the Turkish Government on all sorts of questions; I go so far as to say that we have damaged our influence in Turkey by taking up causes with which we had no immediate concern; but I think we ought to use all the pressure we can command to secure their recognition of this post office. We are represented by an Ambassador whose relations with the Porte are, happily, better than those of his predecessor, and I do not see why there should be any difficulty in getting our way on this question. We are not asking for money. There is nothing more difficult than to extract money from the Turkish Government. Neither are we asking for reform, which is equally difficult to secure. We are simply asking for something which we are entitled to, and which other nations enjoy. It is merely a case of insisting upon the fulfilment of a promise which has been made to us, and the granting of a right which has been extended to other nations. This may be described as a trumpery question, but there is an important principle involved. We ought not to submit to what I can only term the senseless obstruction of the Turkish Government. If the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs will only go so far as to accede to the request contained in my question, I am confident that the result will immediately be seen in the disappearance of this obstruction.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (The Marquess of LANSDOWNE): The subject which the noble Lord has brought before your Lordships has engaged the attention of the Foreign Office for some time past, and I do not know that our view of it differs very greatly from that which he has expressed. We came to the conclusion that it was desirable in the interests of our considerable commercial community in Salonika that there should be a British post office there, and it seemed to us only reasonable that privileges which had already been conceded in that port to other Powers—France and Austria—should not be denied to us. We thought our case was strengthened owing to the fact that lately another foreign Power—Germany—has been allowed to establish post offices at Beirut, Jerusalem, and Smyrna. The Porte objected to our proposal, and we did not think, under the circumstances, that the objection was founded upon sufficient grounds. But in view of that objection, as a provisional measure we opened a post office in the buildings of the Consular Office at Salonika, and that post office has been open since May of last year. That arrangement, as the noble Lord truly said, was not only an inconvenient but a very expensive one, owing to the fact that the mails have to be carried by messengers from Salonika to the frontier. The expense is about £700 a year.

The noble Lord asked us what steps we have taken in order to deal with this difficulty. I find that in October last a representation was made to the Turkish Ambassador at His Majesty's Court here. That representation was repeated in January of the present year, and at the same time representations were made at Constantinople through the British Ambassador at that place. I heard a few days ago, unofficially, it is true, but from a reliable source, that we might expect a reply to these representations in a few days. That reply has not yet reached us; but since the noble Lord's notice appeared on the Paper I have again mentioned the subject to the Turkish Ambassador and pressed upon him the necessity of putting an end to the procrastination that has already taken place with regard to this subject. That is all the information I can give my noble friend at present.

He also asks us whether we will undertake that the expenditure sanctioned for one year in connection with this post office shall be renewed in the event of the Porte declining to comply with our representations. I will ask my noble friend to excuse me from discussing the financial arrangements we might make in the hypothetical case of the Porte's continuing to turn a deaf ear to our representations. Those representations will still be urged, and until we learn, which I hope we shall not, that they have been addressed to the Porte in vain, I think it is better not to enter into the question of the financial arrangements that might be made in case the negotiations should fail.

LORD NEWTON: May I say that in my opinion the noble Marquess's representations would be very much strengthened if he would comply with my request, and intimate that he is prepared to continue this payment in the event of the Porte still refusing its recognition of the British post office?

THE POSTMASTER GENERAL (The Marquess of LONDONDERRY): My Lords, I endorse all that has fallen from my noble friend the Foreign Secretary, and would remind the noble Lord who has raised this question that when the post office at Salonika was established it was on the distinct understanding that it should be for one year only. That stipulation was made in consequence of the opposition it met with at the hands of the Turkish Government. It is of course quite impossible at the present moment to make any definite statement as to what will be done in the future. This is a question in which the Foreign Office is concerned to a greater extent than the Department over which I preside, as the chief expense—the conveyance of the mails from Salonika to the frontier by messengers—is charged on the Foreign Office Votes. I therefore think my noble friend should leave the matter in the hands of the noble Marquess the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and His Majesty's representative at Constantinople, who is doing all in his power to secure the approval of the Sublime Porte to the maintenance of a post office at Salonika. I trust, in the interests of the British inhabitants, that he may be successful. If the noble Marquess the Secretary of State sees his way to again approach the Treasury on this matter, I shall, so far as lies in my power, endorse and support any arguments he may put forward in support of the continuance of this post office.

House adjourned at ten minutes before Five of the clock, till To-morrow, half-past Ten of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Thursday, 7th March, 1901.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

CITY OF LONDON (SPITALFIELDS MARKET) BILL. (BY ORDER.)

Order for Second Reading read.

MR. GRAY (West Ham, N.) said it would not, fortunately, be necessary for him to detain the House for more than a few moments. This Bill made provision for the repurchase by the City of London of Spitalfields Market. Many centuries back a market monopoly was granted to the City of London, long before the borough which he had the honour to represent came into existence. It was felt that the time had now arrived when that monopoly should be broken through. He fully concurred that this Bill was one which could not be properly discussed in the House. It required investigation by a Committee upstairs, and he was glad to know that the promoters took the same view, and were prepared to have that full inquiry. It was understood that the other Bill referring to the same subject should go to the same Committee, and he did not therefore intend to press the motion which stood in his name.

Mr. LOUGH (Islington, W.) said he understood that the hon. Member in charge of the Bill acquiesced in the arrangement that the two Bills on this subject should go to the same Committee, and he, too, therefore did not press his opposition.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed.

DUBLIN (EQUALISATION OF RATES) BILL. (By Order.)

Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

The CHIEF SECRETARY for IRELAND (Mr. Wyndham, Dover) said he wished in a few words to state the position of the Government in regard to this measure. It would be within the recollection of many hon. Members that a very similar Bill passed the House in 1899, but was abandoned owing to inability to arrive at an agreement in regard to the Lords' Amendment. A similar Bill was also passed by the House last year, and he might mention *en passant* that the ratepayers had already expended £54,000 in seeking to achieve the object aimed at by this Bill. The Bill of last year was referred to a Joint Committee of both Houses—a Committee of a very representative character, which unanimously recommended that legislation should be pressed on Parliament following upon the lines of the London Equalisation of Rates Bill. The Leader of the House, when that recommendation was pressed upon him, promised to give it careful consideration, and undertook to inform the promoters before November whether the Government would or would not be in a position to lend its aid to carry such a Bill during the following session. But the General Election and the reconstruction of the Government rendered [it impossible for them to redeem that pledge. The Government had examined the present Bill, and had found that it was drawn in almost exact accordance with the recommendation of the Committee. But it must be borne in mind that the cases of London and Dublin were not exactly on all fours. London constituted an entity of local government, but in Dublin there were several entities, and there was a danger that some hardship or injustice might arise to the townships concerned from the purely automatic effect of such a measure. The question was to what extent they would benefit from the road lighting and sanitation. The Government would, therefore, feel bound to introduce Amendments to safeguard the townships in that matter. They would not oppose the Second Reading, but it must be perfectly understood that their Amendments must be embodied in the Bill.

Mr. HARRINGTON (Dublin, Harbour), on behalf of the promoters, undertook to accept the Government proposals, and Mr. MOORE (Antrim, N.) also, under the circumstances, withdrew his opposition to the Second Reading.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed.

LONDON RIVERSIDE FISH MARKETS BILL. (By Order.)

Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Mr. LOUGH said he did not propose to press his opposition to this Bill, although he considered that it was a very bad one. He was, however, confident that when it came to be considered by a Committee it would not be allowed to pass. It set forth statements which he, for one, could not accept, as to the right of the City Corporation to establish markets outside the City boundaries. This question of markets was a vital one to the people of London, and should the Bill pass through the Committee he proposed to reserve to himself the right at a later stage to oppose it.

Mr. GRAY said he wished to make the same reservation. He understood, however, that the promoters were willing that the Bill should be subjected to careful investigation upstairs, and he, therefore, would reserve his opposition. Personally, he thought that the City of London ought not to have the right to prohibit the establishment of markets in great towns which had grown up since the time it was granted its monopoly.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed.

THAMES LIGHTERMEN BILL.
(BY ORDER.)

Order for Second Reading read.

MR. ALBAN GIBBS (London), in moving the Second Reading of this Bill, said it was intended to make further provision for navigating lighters and barges on the Thames and in the Port of London, and altering for that purpose Section 66 of the Watermen and Lightermen Act. It was claimed by the Watermen's Company that barges and lighters working in the Port of London and on the Thames between Teddington Lock and Gravesend should be navigated only by men whose qualification was a licence from the Watermen's Company. This Bill, therefore, destroyed a monopoly. If these lightermen went out on strike and refused to navigate barges, the owners had no remedy at all. It was quite true that they could get people in to do the work, as long as the lightermen were on strike, but supposing they had engaged a man to navigate a barge at eight o'clock in the morning, if any lighterman choose to present himself at one o'clock on the same day they were bound to get rid of the man first engaged and to take on the lighterman. Now, the foreign trade of the Port of London represented something like 252 millions sterling, and much of it was dealt with by lightermen. It was of great importance that this matter should be looked into, especially when, as happened recently, the lightermen came out on strike for something like three months, with the result that the whole trade was disorganised and the Port of London greatly injured. The difficulty arose from the fact that the owners of barges were unable to navigate their own vessels, and were compelled to employ licensed watermen. He did not think anything could be said against the desirability of making it possible for lightermen to work their own barges. At present the greater part of the work was done by tugs, and the lighterman simply sat in the stern of the barge, which was tugged down the river by steam, and received his pay when he condescended to call for it. His hon. friend opposite had put down an Amendment to the effect that this Bill ought not to be proceeded with while the Royal Commission on the Port of London was sitting. But in the opinion of the promoters of this Bill this was not a matter which was referred to the Royal Commission. Moreover, it was a matter of great urgency that the Port of London should be protected and enabled to do its own work. He therefore hoped that the Bill might be allowed to pass. But if his right hon. friend the President of the Board of Trade considered that this really was a matter which was referred to the Royal Commission, and which, therefore, could not properly be proceeded with in this House, he could only say that he would urge very strongly upon him that he should do his best to induce the Royal Commission to take this particular work in hand, and to issue an interim Report. Of course if that were done he would withdraw the Bill.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central) said he had no doubt whatever that this subject was within the reference to the Royal Commission on the Port of London. The Royal Commissioners had themselves taken the same view, for a day or two ago he received a letter from the Watermen's Company, in which the following passage occurred—

> "The Royal Commission on the Port of London have notified the Watermen's Company that their rights and privileges are to be inquired into by them, and have allowed the company to be represented by counsel before them."

Under the circumstances it would be very undesirable for this House to take into consideration a Bill dealing with the matter. As to the suggestion of his hon. friend that the Commissioners should be invited to make an interim Report, he was quite willing to bring that to their notice and to leave it for the Commissioners themselves to decide whether or not it was expedient to do so.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON (Tower Hamlets, Poplar) said it seemed to him, without going into the merits of the question, that it would not be right, under the particular circumstances which had been drawn attention to, to press the measure, and he was therefore very glad that it was to be withdrawn.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Bill withdrawn.

PRIVATE BILLS (STANDING ORDER 63 COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order No. 63 has been complied with, viz.:—

Metropolitan Electric Supply Bill.

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time.

DUBLIN CORPORATION (MARKETS, ETC.) BILL. (BY ORDER.)

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL (SPITALFIELDS MARKETS) BILL. (BY ORDER.)

SHIPLEY IMPROVEMENT BILL.
(BY ORDER.)

Read a second time, and committed.

PAISLEY GAS PROVISIONAL ORDER.

Bill to confirm a Provisional Order under the Burgh Police (Scotland) Act, 1892, relating to Paisley, ordered to be brought in by The Lord Advocate and Mr. Solicitor General for Scotland.

PAISLEY GAS PROVISIONAL ORDER BILL.

"To confirm a Provisional Order under the Burgh Police (Scotland) Act, 1892, relating to Paisley," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 89.]

SELECTION OF MEMBERS FOR SERVICE ON PRIVATE BILL COMMITTEES —EQUAL TREATMENT.

MR. D. A. THOMAS (Merthyr Tydvil) said the Instruction which he proposed to move spoke for itself, its intention being that equal treatment should be given to all Members of the House alike, and he ventured to think that the present was a most opportune time for moving such an Instruction, having regard to the fact that this was a new Parliament. A practice had of late grown up to exempt barristers and others who did not care to serve on Select Committees. No such intention existed when such Committees were originally set up, and the practice should no longer be permitted. In the minds of most hon. Members, serving upon these Committees was nothing less than drudgery, and in many cases only performed from a high sense of public duty. A Return which was published in connection with this subject showed that 300 Members of the House never served on a single Committee throughout the last Parliament, the result being that half the Members of the House had done the whole of this unpleasant work.* A large number of those who did none of this work were barristers, who claimed exemption, and what he desired to put a stop to was any favour of this kind being granted to a particular class. Of all people in the world, of all Members of the House, barristers were least entitled to this privilege. They were specially fitted, from their legal training, to sit upon Committees, where the duties consisted of hearing and sifting evidence, and they were men who made the least sacrifices and had most to gain of any class of men who entered Parliament.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That it be an Instruction to the Committee that, in selecting Members to serve on Committees for the consideration of Private Bills, exemption shall not be granted to any Member on the ground of his private profession, business, or avocation, and all Members shall receive equal treatment and consideration."—(*Mr. D. A. Thomas.*)

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* The Returns showing the service of Members on Private Bill and Select Committees are included in the Appendices to the last volume of *Debates* each session.

*Mr. HALSEY (Hertfordshire, Watford), as Chairman of the Committee of Selection, objected that the motion, if carried, would limit the scope and would take away all discretion from the Committee of Selection as to the choice of Members who should serve. If it were carried, the Selection Committee would be no longer able to select; they would have no choice; they would have merely to establish a sort of rota, every Member in turn having to serve, no matter how unsuitable he might be for the particular Committee for which he was selected. The existing instructions to the Committee were sufficient, in his opinion, and in the opinion of his predecessor, Sir John Mowbray. Therefore he thought the motion should not be accepted, but that the hands of the Committee of Selection should be left free. Neither practising barristers nor any other class had a right to be exempted on the ground of their profession or avocation, but on the other hand it was not right to say that no exemption should be given to any person on any ground. Every application for exemption should be considered on its merits, and the Committee should deal with each case as it came before them. All Members were bound to serve on Committees when called upon, and they ought not to be relieved of their duty except under special circumstances. The power in the hands of the Committee of Selection was a very great power; it was exercised with the greatest care. The way in which the Committee did its work was advantageous to Parliament, and, in his opinion, it would be undesirable to reconsider the rules. Admittedly committee work was much more arduous than in former times, owing to so many more measures coming before it, and it was as much the duty of Members to serve on Committees as to attend the sittings of the House. He was glad to say that there were encouraging signs that Members were becoming more alive to this duty, and this session fewer Members had endeavoured to raise objections than had been the case for a long time past. On the other hand, he was pleased to say he had had many applications from young Members eager to serve on Committees, and those applications would be encouraged. Under those circumstances he urged the House to leave well alone and not to accept the motion of the hon. Member.

Mr. FLYNN (Cork Co., N.) did not desire to occupy the attention of the House for more than a momont, but as admittedly there were many Members of the House who never sat on Committees, he thought the motion ought to be supported.

Captain NORTON (Newington, W.) supported the Instruction on the ground of the equality of all Members of the House so far as their duty to their constituencies was concerned. He was glad to learn that many new Members were, as had been suggested, desirous of serving on these Committees, but many new Members not in the position of distinguished lawyers, bankers, or merchants—Members representing Labour constituencies—devoted their time and did their duty as members of these Committees, whilst others were allowed to shirk their duty by obtaining exemptions. This was a matter which affected the whole of the Members of the House, and it was monstrous that one set of Members should receive exemptions which were not extended to all. The fact of the matter was that a certain number of Members wished to have the honour of sitting in the House, but shirked doing their fair share of this arduous and distasteful work. He cordially supported the Instruction.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 130; Noes, 282. (Division List No. 41.)

AYES.

Abraham, Wm. (Rhondda)
Allen, Chas. P. (Glouc.,Stroud
Allhusen, Augustus Henry E.
Ambrose, Robert
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balcarres, Lord
Barlow, John Emmott
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bell, Richard

Boland, John
Boyle, James
Brand, Hon. Arthur G.
Brigg, John
Bullard, Sir Harry
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Caine, William Sproston
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Carew, James Laurence
Channing, Francis Allston
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cogan, Denis J.
Colville, John
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Delany, William
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Elibank, Master of
Fardell, Sir T. George
Farrell, James Patrick
Flower, Ernest
Flynn, James Christopher
Furness, Sir Christopher
Garfit, William
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gordon, Maj. Evans (T'rH'mlts
Grant, Corrie
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Gurdon, Sir William Brampton
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hammond, John
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harrington, Timothy
Harwood, George
Haslem, Sir Alfred S.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Helme, Norval Watson
Hermon-Hodge, Robert T.
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (Bristol, E.)
Hope, J. F. (Shef'ld, Brightside
Horniman, Frederick John
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennedy, Patrick James
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop)
Labouchere, Henry
Lambert, George
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leng, Sir John
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
Mather, William
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)
Murphy, J.
Newnes, Sir George
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary, Mid)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, J. (Roscommon, N.)
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Partington, Oswald
Pemberton, John S. G.
Pirie, Duncan V.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Reddy, M.
Redmond, William (Clare)
Renshaw, Charles Bine
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Russell, T. W.
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sandys, Lt.-Col Thos. Myles
Schwann, Charles E.
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soares, Ernest J.
Stevenson, Francis S.
Strachey, Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
Thomas, F. Freeman-(Hastings
Thompson, F. W. (York, W.R.)
Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wilson, Fred. W. (Norfolk, Mid)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wodehouse, Hn. Armine (Essex
Wodehouse, Sir J. T (Huddersf'd
Young, Commander (Berks, E.
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. D. A. Thomas and Mr. Fenwick.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Aird, Sir John
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther, H. T.
Arkwright John Stanhope
Arrol, Sir William
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atherley-Jones, L.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Baird, John George Alexander
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W (Leeds
Balfour, Maj. K. R. (Christch.)
Banes, Major George Edward
Barry, Sir Francis T (Windsor
Bartley, George C. T.
Bathurst, Hn. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Black, Alexander William
Blake, Edward
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boulnois, Edmund
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex)
Bowles, T. G. (King's Lynn)
Brassey, Albert
Broadhurst, Henry
Brodrick, Rt Hon. St. John
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Carlile, William Walter
Causton, Richard Knight
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh)
Cawley, Frederick
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, J Austen (Worc'r
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Charrington, Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Coddington, Sir William
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cox, Irwin Edw. Bainbridge
Craig, Robert Hunter
Cranborne, Viscount
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Crombie, John William
Cross, H. Shepherd (Bolton)
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
Dewar, T. R (T'rH'mlets, S. Geo.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dillon, John
Dimsdale, Sir J. Cockfield
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Duncan, James H.
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. Hart
Edwards, Frank
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Ellis, John Edward
Emmott, Alfred
Faber, George Denison
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
Fergusson, Rt. Hn Sir J. (Manc'r
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
Fitzroy, Hon. E. Algernon

Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Sir M. (London Univ.
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Gibbs,HnA.G.H.(CityofLond.
Gibbs, Hn.Vicary (St. Albans)
Gordon,Hn.J.E.(Elgin&Nairn
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)
Gore, Hon. F. S. Ormsby-
Greene,SirEW (B'ryS.Edm'ds
Gretton, John
Griffith, Ellis J.
Groves, James Grimble
Hain, Edward
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton,RtHn.LordG(M'd'x
Hamilton,Marq of(L'nd'nd'rry
Harcourt, Rt.Hon.SirWilliam
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, F. Leverton (Tynem'th
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, A. Howard (Hanley)
Heath, Jas. (Staffords., N.W.
Heaton, John Henniker
Helder, Augustus
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. CharlesH.
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hoare, Edw. B. (Hampstead)
Hobhouse, Hy. (Somerset, E.)
Horner, Frederick William
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Hoult, Joseph
Howard,CaptJ(Kent,Faversh.
Hozier,Hon.JamesHenryCecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hughes, Col. Edwin
Jackson, Rt. Hon. Wm. L.
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Jones, David B. (Swansea)
Kenyon, James (Lancs., Bury)
Kimber, Henry
Kinloch, Sir J. George Smyth
Kitson, Sir James
Knowles, Lees
Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawrence, William F.
Lawson, John Grant
Lecky, Rt. Hon. Wm.Edw. H.
Lee,CaptA.H.(Hants,Fareh'm
Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leighton, Stanley
Leveson-Gower,FrederickN.S.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long,Col.Chas. W. (Evesham)
Long,Rt.Hn.Walter (Bristol,S
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, Rt. Hon. J. (Kent)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman

Lucas,ReginaldJ.(Portsmouth
Macartney,Rt.HnW.G.Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Crae, George
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop,James (Stirlingshire
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, N.)
M'Laren, Charles Benjamin
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Markham, Arthur Basil
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell,RtHn SirH E.(Wig'n
Maxwell,W.J.H.(Dumfriessh.
Mellor, Rt. Hon. J. William
Middlemore, John T.
Milner,Rt. Hon. Sir Fredk. G.
Milton, Viscount
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Montagu,Hn. J.Scott (Hants)
Mooney, John J.
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow)
Morgan,J.Lloyd(Carmarthen)
Morley, Charles (Breconshire)
Morley, Rt.Hon.J. (Montrose)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morris,Hon. Martin Henry F.
Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray,RtHnA Graham(Bute
Murray,Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Myers, William Henry
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Newdigate,FrancisAlexander
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Nolan,Col.John P.(Galway,N.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Malley, William
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer, Sir C M. (Durham)
Palmer, George W. (Reading)
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, H. Pike (Darlington)
Percy, Earl
Perks, Robert William
Pilkington, Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Frances
Pretyman, Ernest George
Price, Robert John
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James

Radcliffe, R. F.
Redmond, John E.(Waterford)
Reid, James (Greenock)
Rentoul, James Alexander
Ridley,Hn.M.W.(Stalybridge
Ritchie,Rt.Hn.Chas.Thomson
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Roche, John
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Sadler,Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Saunderson,Rt.Hn.Col.Edw.J
Seely, Chas. Hilton (Lincoln)
Seton-Karr, Henry
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Shaw-Stewart, M.H.(Renfrew
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Smith,James Parker(Lanarks.
Smith, Hon.W. F. D. (Strand)
Spencer,RtHnC.R.(Northants
Stanley,Hn.Arthur(Ormskirk
Stanley,Edw.James(Somerset
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Stroyan, John
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot,RtHnJ.G.(Oxf'dUniv.)
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomkinson, James
Tomlinson, Wm.Edw.Murray
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tufnell, Colonel Edward
Tully, Jasper
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Wallace, Robert
Walrond, Rt. Hon. Sir W. H.
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Wason, E. (Clackmannan)
Wason, John C. (Orkney)
Welby,Lt-ColA.C.E(Taunton
Wharton, Rt. Hn. John Lloyd
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Williams,RtHnJPowell-(Birm
Wills, Sir Frederick
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd, Wm.H.(Yorks.)
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. Halsey and Mr. Sydney Buxton.

LONDON UNDERGROUND RAILWAYS.

Lords Message [5th March], communicating a Resolution relative to the appointment of a Joint Committee on London Underground Railways, considered.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS (Mr. J. W. LOWTHER, Cumberland, Penrith), in moving that the House do agree with the Lords in this resolution, said that no less than fourteen Bills had been presented to Parliament that session dealing with tube railways. He had consulted with the Chairman of Committees of the House of Lords and the President of the Board of Trade, and they had come to the conclusion that to refer all these Bills to a Joint Committee would be the best course to pursue. It was obvious that before any of these Bills could proceed there were certain questions which must be determined, such as the shape of the tube, the method by which the power was to be applied, the precautions, if any, which might be taken against vibration, the damages which were to be paid to lessees and occupiers who might suffer from the working of these tubes or from any annoyance, and, perhaps the most important question of all, what were to be the lines of communication of these tubes. Those were matters which must occupy the attention of Parliament for a considerable time. It was proposed that power should be given to the Joint Committee to say what Bills were not to be proceeded with that session, and the probability was that none of the Bills would be proceeded with that session. But if the Joint Committee, as he hoped it would, arrived at conclusions on these broad principles this session, it would enable those who proposed to bring forward such Bills to proceed on clear lines next session.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Resolution."—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*)

MR. JOHN BURNS (Battersea) asked whether the right hon. Gentleman would get the authority of both Houses to consider the relationships of these tubes in connection with parks and open spaces, and also with the preservation of ancient buildings.

*MR. J. W. LOWTHER said that probably those subjects would come under the terms of reference, but he would call the attention of the Chairman of Committees of the other House to the matter.

Question put, and agreed to.

Message to the Lords to acquaint them therewith.—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*)

PETITIONS.

CHURCH DISCIPLINE.

Petition from Dorking, for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (HIGHER GRADE AND EVENING CONTINUATION SCHOOLS).

Petition from Salford, for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Driffield; Greenock (three); Ratcliffe; Kirton-in-Lindsey; Scotter; Whiteinch; Falkirk; Cranstonhill; and Lewisham; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Blairgowrie, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS (PARTICULARS OF PIECE WORK WAGES) (PEN-MAKING).

Copy presented, of Order of the Secretary of State, dated 12th July, 1900, applying, with modifications, the provisions of Section 40 of the Factory and Workshops Act, 1895, to Factories and Workshops in which is carried on the making of Pens [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

GOLD COAST.

Copy presented, of Correspondence relating to the Ashanti War, 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

CHINA (No. 2, 1900).

Copy presented, of Despatch from His Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburg respecting the Russo-Chinese Agreement as to Manchuria [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

COLONIAL REPORTS (ANNUAL).

Copy presented, of Report No. 317 (Jamaica, Report for 1899–1900) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

AGRICULTURAL RATES ACT, 1896.

Return ordered, "in the following form, showing for each Parish in the several Poor Law Unions situate wholly or for the most part within the counties of Carmarthen, Carnarvon, Dorset, Essex, Leicester, and Yorks (West Riding) the rateable value of Agricultural Land and other property, respectively, in the years 1896 and 1899; the amount of Poor Rates collected in the years ended the 25th day of March, 1896 and 1900; and the estimated proportion of such Rates collected in respect of Agricultural Land and other property:—

County, Poor Law Union, and Parish.	Rateable Value on the 20th day of July, 1896.		Rateable Value on the 25th day of March, 1899.		Total amount of Poor Rates collected in the year ended Lady Day—		Estimated amount, based on Rateable Value, of Poor Rates collected in respect of Agricultural Land and other property, respectively.			
							Year 1895-6.		Year 1899-1900.	
	Agricultural Land.	Other property.	Agricultural Land.	Other property.	1896.	1900.	Agricultural Land (Rate at same amount as that in respect of other property).	Other property.	Agricultural Land (Rate at one-half of that in respect of other property).	Other property.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£

—(*Mr. Henry Hobhouse.*)

QUESTIONS.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—NEGOTIATIONS WITH GENERAL BOTHA.

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether it is the case that communications have been passing between Lord Kitchener and General Botha, and whether he can inform the House of the nature of those communications.

The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.): There have been communications, but the Government are not in a position at the present time to make any statement on the subject.

REVERSE AT HELVETIA.

Sir E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT (Sheffield, Ecclesall): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether an officer with eighteen men held a post during the attack on Helvetia against a greatly superior force of Boers after the main garrison had surrendered; and whether he can give the name of this officer, or state that he has been commended.

The SECRETARY of STATE for WAR (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford): No official communication to this effect has been forwarded by Lord Kitchener. I have invited Lord Kitchener to forward any such case for such prompt reward as he may think fitting.

MILITIA OFFICERS—SENIORITY.

Mr. LAWRENCE (Liverpool, Abercromby): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been drawn to the case of subaltern officers in embodied Militia battalions in South Africa, who are candidates for commissions in the line, and are placed at comparative disadvantage to those Militia officers who by staying in England are able to pass the examinations for direct commissions, and thus gain a year or a year and a half seniority in the Army; and whether he will take steps to treat such officers who are on service in the field more generously by allowing them, on receiving their commissions in the line, to reckon the time served at the front for seniority and relative rank in the Army.

Mr. BRODRICK: We have done all that was possible to prevent Militia candidates for commissions from being placed at a disadvantage by reason of their service in South Africa. On the occasion of each of the competitions held since Militia battalions went to South Africa, a liberal proportion of commissions has been allotted to units in South Africa to compensate for inability to compete. These commissions bear the same date as those given to successful competitors at the examination. Lord Kitchener will grant fifty commissions in the present month. The hon. Member's proposal to antedate commissions so as to cover the period of service in South Africa with Militia battalions would involve the supersession of many officers, and is, I fear, impracticable.

COURTS-MARTIAL.

SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he will direct that no officer shall be penalised through the decision of a court of inquiry or court martial without being given the opportunity of making his own defence.

MR. BRODRICK: Certainly, Sir. The military authorities inform me that they are not aware of any case in which an officer has been penalised through a decision of a court martial or court of inquiry without his view of the case being before them, and I will take care that no such case occurs.

IMPERIAL YEOMANRY OFFICERS—PAY AND ALLOWANCES.

MR. SETON-KARR (St. Helens): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that the effect of placing officers commissioned with the Imperial Yeomanry, now being recruited under the special Army Order of 18th January last, on the ordinary cavalry rates of pay, is that the lieutenants and second lieutenants receive less actual pay than the regimental sergeant-majors, staff sergeants, and sergeant-majors of such Yeomanry, and that the second lieutenants receive less actual pay than sergeants; whether, in view of such discrepancy, he will, under the circumstances, reconsider the rates of pay of the officers of such Imperial Yeomanry; and whether he will, at the same time, consider the advisability of raising the present grant to Imperial Yeomanry officers for personal equipment and saddlery to a larger amount, in view of the facts that the present grant does not nearly cover the lowest estimate of cost of such equipment, and that officers of the Rhodesian Field Force forming part of the Imperial Yeomanry Force last year received for the same purpose nearly three times the amount of the present grant.

MR. BRODRICK: So far as actual pay is concerned, the facts are as stated in the first paragraph of the hon. Member's question. But it must be borne in mind that the officer receives a gratuity at the rate of £100 a year, and colonial allowance at 3s. a day while in South Africa, which the non-commissioned officer does not. I am not prepared to reconsider now the amount of the grant for personal equipment, which was fixed after very careful consideration, and has been in force throughout the raising of the Imperial Yeomanry.

IRISH YEOMANRY PAY.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he will state upon what terms as to pay the Irish Yeomanry went to South Africa; whether the rate of pay was to be 5s. a day after twelve months service; and, if so, upon what date this rate begins.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE WAR OFFICE (Lord STANLEY, Lancashire, Westhoughton): The Irish Yeomanry received on enlistment the same rates of pay as the regular cavalry, as laid down by the Royal Warrant of the 24th December, 1899. The rate of pay for a private was raised by Royal Warrant of 13th February, 1901, to 5s. from the day following that on which they completed one year's service, or from the 1st February, 1901, whichever occurred first.

*MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny): May I ask if the Irish Yeomanry proved themselves worth 4s. a day more than the poor Irish Fusiliers?

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order!

YEOMANRY RECRUITS—ACCOMMODATION AT ALDERSHOT.

COLONEL LOCKWOOD (Essex, Epping): I beg to ask the Secretary of

State for War whether his attention has been called to the case of a batch of Yeomanry recruits who, on leaving London at 11.30 a.m. on 5th February and arrivingly unexpectedly at Aldershot, were told they were not expected and must come again at six o'clock; whether he is aware that forty-six of them were placed in a room which could only accommodate twenty; that no rations were served out for twenty-four hours, that for fourteen days and nights the majority of them had to live in the clothes they came in, and that the kits were not served out to all until 16th February, the men having to eat their rations with their fingers; that this arrangement lasted for one month; that there was no discipline in the room, and only one parade at nine o'clock; that not one of these men was ever put upon a horse; and that these men were described in official language as having undergone one month's official training in riding and shooting; and whether he will cause an inquiry to be held into the circumstances, and take steps to prevent their recurrence.

Mr. BRODRICK: The difficulties in accommodating and providing for so many Yeomanry at Aldershot have already been fully explained to the House. The general officer commanding has personally dealt with these questions, and informs me that very few complaints were received. I believe that every effort has been made to cope with the difficulties, and that they were successfully and promptly dealt with, allowing for the circumstances that some 10,000 men have had to be passed through Aldershot and equipped during the last six weeks.

Colonel LOCKWOOD: Do I understand that my statements are correct?

Mr. BRODRICK: Well, Sir, I cannot say. I have referred many cases to Sir Redvers Buller. A large number were found to be incorrect; and I think it is much better to leave the matter in the hands of the general officer commanding.

Mr. JAMES LOWTHER (Kent, Thanet): Will the attention of the Commander-in-Chief be called to this matter?

Mr. BRODRICK: Yes, Sir. I have forwarded the letters, but it has been found that many emanate from one Yeoman.

Major RASCH (Essex, Chelmsford): Will the right hon. Gentleman say why this class of recruits are called Yeomen, which is precisely what they are not?

Mr. BRODRICK: Yeomen are mounted troops, and that is exactly the class of troops that these recruits are intended to be.

RIFLE RANGES.

Mr. COURTENAY WARNER (Staffordshire, Lichfield): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if any new rifle ranges have been completed since last September; and, if so, how many; and if any old rifle ranges have been closed; and, if so, how many since that date.

Lord STANLEY: The ranges at Parkhurst, in the Isle of Wight, and at Kilbride, in Ireland, have been completed since the date named. The only War Department range closed in the same period is the Les Landes range in Jersey, which was only used for field firing, and of which the lease has expired.

SALFORD BARRACKS.

Mr. LEES KNOWLES (Salford, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can state who are the purchasers of the Salford Barracks, sold under the provisions of the Barracks Act of 1890; what is the amount realised by the sale; and to what purposes will the site and the purchase money respectively be applied.

Lord STANLEY: The Salford Barracks were sold to the Corporation of Salford for £38,500. The site is, I understand, to be used by the corporation for the erection of artisans' dwellings. The purchase money has been applied to the purposes of the Barracks Act and the issues from the Consolidated Fund reduced accordingly.

WEST INDIAN TROOPS AT ST. HELENA.

Mr. DILLON (Mayo, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether on the 2nd of January last a number of West Indian troops now stationed in St. Helena raided the town with clubs and razors tied to sticks; whether a number of the people were injured, several women beaten, and some children cut with the razors, and twelve of His Majesty's sailors injured; whether the West Indian soldiers broke out of barracks, and set their officers at defiance; whether when they were ordered to leave the town they refused, and threatened to blow up the town; and, if so, will he state what punishments have been inflicted; and whether the West Indian troops have been removed from St. Helena.

MR. BRODRICK: There was a quarrel between the sailors and the West Indian detachment, some men of which created disturbances; several had razors tied to sticks, and one is said to have had a club. Some few of the inhabitants were injured, but no women are reported to have been beaten or children cut; five sailors were injured. Several West Indian soldiers broke out of barracks, though they are not reported to have set their officers at defiance. They hesitated to march next morning, but eventually did so. Nothing is known of any threat to blow up the town. In consequence of the disturbance the detachment was moved at once to Sierra Leone, where fifteen men were tried by court-martial, six men were convicted and sentenced to terms of imprisonment varying from six weeks to six months, seven were acquitted, and two are still in hospital awaiting trial.

MR. DILLON: With this experience will the right hon. Gentleman give an undertaking that these regiments of coloured troops will not be moved into the more civilised portions of the Empire?

MR. BRODRICK: No, Sir. I cannot give any such undertaking.

LUDGERSHALL BARRACKS.

MR. CHARLES HOBHOUSE (Bristol, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the attention of the War Office has been directed to the insanitary condition of the village of Ludgershall, close to which large barracks are to be erected, and in which the War Office owns much property; if so, what steps it is proposed to take to remedy the present state of affairs.

MR. BRODRICK: The War Department property does not include the village of Ludgershall, and the new barracks will be two miles from the village and separated from it by a range of hills. The question of the improvement of Ludgershall has, however, not been lost sight of, and is under consideration.

MR. CHARLES HOBHOUSE: Is it not the fact that the War Office is the lord of the manor of this village?

MR. BRODRICK: I cannot say without notice.

MILITIA PAY.

MR. FREEMAN-THOMAS (Hastings): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether Militia non-commissioned officers and men will in future receive Army rates of pay and messing allowances when called out for preliminary drill or annual training.

MR. BRODRICK: I purpose to touch on this question in introducing the Estimates.

RETURN—NAVY (FLEETS).

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he can say when the Return, Navy (Fleets), is likely to be circulated.

THE CIVIL LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. PRETYMAN, Suffolk, Woodbridge): It is now in the proof stage, and its issue will be pressed on as quickly as possible.

H.M.S. "BRITANNIA."

MR. EUGENE WASON (Clackmannan and Kinross): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether any provision will be made for the time lost by the naval cadets on the "Britannia" by reason of their being sent home owing to the recent epidemic on board that ship; whether the fees paid for the term will be returned or accounted for; and whether he will take prompt measures to see that a suitable ship is provided for the naval cadets.

MR. PRETYMAN: The time lost by the cadets on board H.M.S. "Britannia" will be made up later on, and there will, therefore, be no occasion for returning fees. The cadets have been sent home for three weeks, and efforts are being made to render the "Britannia" fit and healthy for continued use as a cadets' training ship until the new college now being erected on shore is available. In such case it will be unnecessary to provide other accommodation for them, but if the efforts to render the "Britannia" free from infection should fail in their effect special arrangements will, of course, be made.

ROYAL VISIT TO THE COLONIES—THE "OPHIR"—ENGINE-ROOM STAFF AND CREW.

*SIR JOHN COLOMB (Great Yarmouth): I beg to ask the Civil Lord of the Admiralty if he will state the reasons for the arrangement by which the Royal Navy furnished the deck complement of the steamship "Ophir," while the owners provide the engine-room complement instead of the Royal Navy.

I beg at the same time to ask the Civil Lord of the Admiralty whether he will explain the arrangement made with the owners of the steamship "Ophir" as regards wages, victuals, clothing, and discipline of that part of the complement provided by the owners during Admiralty charter.

MR. PRETYMAN: It was considered that as the engineers of the Orient Company, accustomed to working the engines of the "Ophir," remained in charge of her machinery during her forthcoming voyage, the company should provide the whole of the engine-room staff. A subsequent decision has been come to to limit the staff provided by the company to the engineers and a few special ratings, the remainder being supplied by men of the Royal Navy. The portion of the crew of the "Ophir" not belonging to the Royal Navy have been entered under special conditions approved by Order in Council, which places them under the Naval Discipline Act, and they are paid the rates of pay agreed upon with the owners of the "Ophir," who victual the entire complement of the ship, including these men. Uniform is supplied at the cost of the Crown.

*SIR JOHN COLOMB: I beg to ask the Civil Lord of the Admiralty whether, before Vote 1 of the Navy Estimates is proceeded with, he will cause to be issued to the House a Return showing the nature and number of officers, petty officers, and men, and their rates of pay respectively, of the engine-room staff of the steamship "Ophir," provided by the owners during the Admiralty charter.

MR. PRETYMAN: I shall be happy to cause such a Return to be issued if the hon. and gallant Member will move for it, or I will send him the statement direct, whichever he prefers.

ADMIRALTY COAL CONTRACTS.

MR WILLIAM ALLAN (Gateshead): I beg to ask the Civil Lord of the Admiralty whether the Admiralty entered into contracts last November for the supply of coals over 1901 at prices ranging from 19s. to 21s. per ton; and, if so, how many tons were contracted for.

MR. PRETYMAN: The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. The quantity contracted for was about 400,000 tons.

MR. WILLIAM ALLAN: How is it that the hon. Gentleman the other night told me the Admiralty never made contracts

MR. PRETYMAN: We were discussing the excess quantities required, and not the minimum.

EXPENDITURE ON NEW CONSTRUCTION.

SIR JOHN COLOMB: I wish to ask the Civil Lord of the Admiralty a question of which I have given him private notice—whether the figures quoted in *The Times* to-day as to the amount of the expenditure on new construction, short of the Votes, are figures for the current year, or for some previous year.

MR. PRETYMAN: The figures are not in respect to the current financial year. They are figures relating to the year ended March, 1900, and have already been dealt with in the statement of the First Lord.

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† See page 483.

NAVAL ORDNANCE STORE DEPARTMENT.

Commander YOUNG (Berkshire, Wokingham): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether a Departmental Committee has been appointed at the Admiralty to investigate into and reorganise the affairs of the Naval Ordnance Store Department; and, if so, whether the Committee will be asked to report as to the advisability of officering the department by Naval officers, and whether the Committee's attention will be drawn to the many promises given to the House of Commons by the Parliamentary Admiralty officials that the Admiralty would appoint Naval warrant officers to berths in this department as vacancies occurred.

Mr. PRETYMAN: Yes, a Committee has been appointed, and the matters referred to are being considered by them.

INDIAN RAILWAY STOCK.

Mr. J, E. GORDON (Elgin and Nairn): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he can state the cause for the continued refusal by the India Office and the Bank of England to explain to the 15,000 shareholders of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company the details and methods recently employed in calculating the average rate of interest received and paid on Indian Government Stock in London during the two-year period under consideration; whether he is aware that the amount of stock referred to in this contract and by the Bank of England is about £120,000,000, but that by an oversight the Bank of England has omitted from the calculation about £100,000,000 stock, and only dealt with that proportion which was invested in during the two-year period; whether he is aware that this intrusion of the key-word "invested," instead of "received" is contrary to all precedent; and what steps will be taken to satisfy the shareholders of the Great Indian, the Bombay, and the Madras Railway Companies that the India Office itself feels a direct responsibility for the due completion of their contracts.

The SECRETARY of STATE for INDIA (Lord G. Hamilton, Middlesex, Ealing): (1) The letter from the Bank of England dated the 9th November, 1900, which gives all the information in my possession as to the methods employed in calculating the rate of interest, was immediately communicated to the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company, and if the hon. Member likes to move for the correspondence in continuation of that already given to the House, I have no objection. (2, 3, and 4) The hon. Member is no doubt aware that, under the contract, the decision as to the rate of interest lay, not with the Secretary of State for India, but with the Governor of the Bank of England; and that his decision, when challenged, was upheld by two courts of law. This appears to me to create a very strong presumption that it was a sound and proper decision; but, in any case, the Secretary of State is bound, like the company, to accept it and to act upon it. He has no option in the matter.

COOPER'S HILL COLLEGE.

Mr. O'MARA (Kilkenny, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he will explain why Sir Charles Bernard's recommendation not to reappoint a separate salaried President to Cooper's Hill College was not adopted; and whether he can inform the House, if this recommendation had been adopted, what annual saving would have resulted therefrom since 1895.

Lord G. HAMILTON: The recommendation made by Sir Charles Bernard was not ignored. On the next vacancy, in 1896, Colonel Pennyquick was appointed to the Presidency on the understanding that he should in addition discharge the duties of professor of engineering. But after two years experience he strongly urged that he ought to be relieved of his professional duties, and to this the Secretary of State in Council, on the advice of the Board of Visitors, finally agreed. The saving which resulted from the combination of the two offices was about £600 a year. The salary of the President is £1,000 a year.

Mr. O'MARA: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether the Board of Visitors recommended the dismissal of Mr. Hurst, accounts instructor; and, if not, who did so; and whether his successor has yet been appointed.

LORD G. HAMILTON: The Board of Visitors recommended that the proposal of the President for a change in the system of tuition in accounts should be adopted; and this involved the retirement of Mr. Hurst and the appointment of a lecturer who should be conversant with the system of the Indian Public Works Department. But as there is no course of lectures on accounts in the summer term no fresh appointment has yet been made.

MR. O'MARA: Well, I cannot find it in the Report.

Then, Sir, I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India if he can state how many new teachers have been appointed to Cooper's Hill College, and how many more it is proposed to appoint under the Report of the Board of Visitors, dated 24th July, 1900; what will be the total sum of the salaries of all these new appointments; what was the total sum of the salaries of the teachers who have been dismissed; and what reduction in the yearly cost of the teaching staff will result therefrom.

LORD G. HAMILTON: The number of new teachers to be appointed is four, and their salaries will amount to £1,367 per annum. The salaries of the retiring professors and lecturers amounted to £3,087, showing a saving of £1,720. Against this must be set the proposed increases in the salaries of the remaining teachers, amounting to £300. The net saving in salaries is therefore £1,420 per annum.

INDIAN FAMINE COMMISSION.

MR. CAINE (Cornwall, Camborne): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether his attention has been drawn to the evidence of 7th February before the Famine Commission of Mr. Lely, Commissioner in Gujarat, to the effect that, owing to the exhaustion of the soil, the fall in price of sugar and cotton, the disuse of the old custom of grain storage for home consumption, and the loss of 70 per cent. of their cattle, there has been a complete breakdown among the cultivators of Gujarat; and whether, seeing that Mr. Lely repeatedly urged a suspension of 45 per cent. of the revenues last year in Gujarat, he can state the grounds on which the Bombay Government refused to remit more than 20 per cent.; is he aware that owing to the force of circumstances only 28 per cent. could be collected; and can he explain why the proposed suspensions of revenue were not earlier made known to the people.

I beg also to ask the Secretary of State for India whether his attention has been drawn to the evidence before the Famine Commission of Mr. Dalal, Famine Commissioner in Baroda, showing the benefit to the suffering cultivators of the wells constructed by the Baroda State in the Kadi district; and whether, with reference to Mr. Dalal's statement that the people of Kadi are less poor than those of Ahmedabad, he will consider the desirability of extending the benefits of this system to the neighbouring British district of Ahmedabad.

LORD G. HAMILTON: As the circumstances to which the hon. Member's questions refer are now being inquired into by a Commission in India, I must await the arrival of their Report before I can express any opinion on the subject.

NEW INDIAN PROVINCE.

MR. SCHWANN (Manchester, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he can state the area, approximately, of that portion of the proposed new province situate beyond the present frontiers of His Majesty's Indian possessions, and stated to be as comprised in the political agencies of Dir, Swat, Chitral, the Khyber, the Kuram, Tochi, and Wano; and the estimated annual cost of the military occupation and political administration of these trans-frontier regions under the proposed scheme; and will the cost of maintenance be made an Imperial charge, this being a matter of Imperial defence.

LORD G. HAMILTON: The aggregate area of the present agencies will not be affected by the substitution for their control of the authority of the Government of India in the place of the authority of the Government of the Punjab. I have no estimate of their present extent. Until the details of the transfer are settled I cannot estimate the annual cost. The charges will continue to be borne, as they are at present, by the Government of India.

PUNJAB ADMINISTRATION.

Mr. SCHWANN: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India will the subtraction from the Punjab of its four western districts and placing them under the Political Department at Simla or Calcutta withdraw them and their populations from the jurisdiction of the Chief Court at Lahore and from the ordinary revenue and public works administration of the Punjab Government; and can he say if any dissents or opinions have been recorded pursuant to the Act of 1858, Sections 23, 24, in course of the correspondence and proceedings of the Secretary of State in Council during the working up of the scheme for organisation for the proposed new province; and whether such dissents or opinions will be placed before Parliament at an early date in accordance with Sections 54, 55, of the Act of 1858.

Lord G. HAMILTON: No final decision has been arrived at on the matters mentioned in the first part of the question. The answer to the second part of the question is in the affirmative, and the Papers relating to the subject should be in the hands of the House in the course of a few hours.

CHINA—RUSSIA AND MANCHURIA.

Mr. CHARLES HOBHOUSE: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he has yet received any confirmation in writing of the promise given orally to the British Ambassador in St. Petersburg that the occupation of Manchuria by the Russians is to be neither virtual nor actual; and, if not, whether he expects to receive such confirmation; and if so, at what time.

*The UNDER SECRETARY for FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Viscount Cranborne, Rochester): The despatch from His Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburg reporting his conversation with the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs on the subject of the Russian occupation of Manchuria to which the hon. Member refers will be presented to Parliament at once. The text of this despatch was seen and approved by Count Lamsdorff at the end of last month.

Mr. CHARLES HOBHOUSE: Has the written assurance been received or not?

*Viscount CRANBORNE: My answer to that is that the contents of the despatch were approved by Count Lamsdorff.

CRIMEAN LOAN OF 1855.

Mr. BILL (Staffordshire, Leek): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the negotiations with the Turkish Government concerning the Crimean Loan of 1855, to which he alluded in the debate on the Civil Service Estimates on 15th June of last year† have been concluded; and whether any arrangement has been arrived at for the conversion of the loan.

*Viscount CRANBORNE: I have nothing to add to the answer which I gave to the hon. Member for Warrington on the 14th of December last, which was to the effect that the negotiations were still suspended.

TRADE OF MACEIO AND PERNAMBUCO.

Mr. SCHWANN: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if the Consular Report for 1899 on the state of trade in Maceio and Pernambuco has now been received by the Foreign Office, and when will it be published, if that has not been done yet.

*Viscount CRANBORNE: The Consul has explained that his Report has been delayed in consequence of the difficulty experienced in obtaining the requisite statistical details; but that he hopes shortly to be able to furnish it.

LEAD OXIDE IN EARTHENWARE GLAZE.

Mr. COGHILL (Stoke-upon-Trent): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the Foreign Office will take steps to stop the introduction into this country of any china or earthenware from other countries the glaze on which contains lead oxide in excess of the amount allowed to manufacturers in this country.

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† See *The Parliamentary Debates* [Fourth Series], Vol. lxxxiv., page 246.

*VISCOUNT CRANBORNE: This question should not be addressed to my Department.

MR. COGHILL: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he can state what steps he proposes to take to prevent the sale of earthenware and china to the public described as leadless glazed, but the glaze upon which it is well known in many cases contains an appreciable quantity of lead oxide.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. RITCHIE, Croydon): I understand my hon. friend to suggest fraudulent misdescription, and not danger to health. The ordinary law provides a remedy in such cases, and I do not feel called upon to take any steps in the matter.

MEDICAL WITNESSES' EXPENSES.

MR. LAWRENCE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he will explain on what grounds medical witnesses in England and Wales are allowed only one guinea per diem while in Scotland they are paid two guineas, with further sum added for each case, and in Ireland the fee of one guinea only requires an attendance in court of three hours in the town of residence, and is changed to two guineas with travelling allowance in case of other towns; and whether he will authorise an inquiry into the matters, with a view to remedy the inequality of remuneration referred to.

*MR. RITCHIE: I do not think the fees of medical witnesses can be touched without dealing at the same time with those of other witnesses, and this I am not prepared to do in view of the largely increased cost of prosecutions which might be the result of such a revision of the present scale.

VALUATION APPEALS.

MR. W. F. D. SMITH (Strand, Westminster): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he can say (1) how many appeals under the Valuation (Metropolis) Act, 1869, entered for hearing at the County of London Quarter Sessions in the list of 1901 have been tried by the Court up to and including 23rd February, 1901; (2) how many of such appeals have been allowed and how many dismissed, and whether with or without costs in either case; (3) and whether the Court has reviewed its judgment in any of the above appeals; and, if so, with what result.

*MR. RITCHIE: The figures are, respectively (1) 82; (2) 76 allowed, 13 with, 63 without, costs; 6 dismissed, 5 with, 1 without, costs; (3) 1—original judgment affirmed.

NEW POLICE BUILDINGS (SHEPHERDESS WALK)—REHOUSING OF PERSONS DISPOSSESSED.

MR. HAY (Shoreditch, Hoxton): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that the public authorities have purchased an area now covered by cottage property in Shepherdess Walk, City Road, and that no provision has been made, or is proposed to be made, for the rehousing of the persons of the working class thus displaced; and whether he will take steps to compel the provision of houses for these persons.

*MR. RITCHIE: I think my hon. friend is misinformed. Only five houses have been acquired by the Metropolitan Police in the neighbourhood of Shepherdess Walk, and under Section 5 of the Metropolitan Police Act, 1886, from which the powers of purchase are derived, as under other Acts giving similar powers in London, the obligation to rehouse does not arise unless twenty or more houses occupied by the labouring classes are taken.

REHOUSING—GREAT NORTHERN AND CITY RAILWAY.

MR. HAY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the fact that the Great Northern and City Railway Company have demolished, as a result of secret purchase by their contractors, dwelling-houses occupied by the poorer labouring classes in Poole Street, Wickham Street, and Wiltshire Row, Shoreditch, and have thereby displaced about 250 persons of the working classes, whose work compels them to live in the neighbourhood, without providing or proposing to provide any accommodation for the persons thus unhoused; and whether he proposes to take steps to compel the Great Northern and City Railway Company to rehouse persons of the working class whose dwellings the company purchases for the purpose of creating a depôt of the company.

*MR. RITCHIE: I am informed by the Great Northern and City Railway Company that the facts are not as suggested in the first part of the question, but that the lands referred to have been openly acquired by the contractors working for the company for purposes of offices, yards, and so forth in connection with their works. If so, as the lands have not been acquired by the company, I have no such power to compel the provision of rehousing accommodation, as I might have by statute if the houses were being purchased by the company under their Acts.

REHOUSING—LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

MR. HAY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is aware that Broad Street Buildings, Whitecross Place, Wilson Street, Finsbury, recently the property of the Land Security Company and occupied by 585 of the poorer labouring class, have now been transferred to the Chief Manager of the Estate Office of the London and North Western Railway Company, and the tenants given notice to quit; whether these buildings are in process of being cleared of tenants and demolished, and the land handed over vacant to the Railway Company to be used for the extension of that Railway Company's Broad Street Goods Station; whether his attention has been called to the fact that the acquisition of working class dwellings for this railway company's purposes through a secret agent enables the railway company to escape their statutory obligations in contravention of Standing Order 183A; and if he will give particulars of other purchases made by the London and North Western Railway Company in the same or a similar manner throughout the United Kingdom; and whether he will state the measures he has taken, if any, to mitigate the hardships to the working class tenants concerned, and to prevent overcrowding in congested districts of the metropolis.

*MR. RITCHIE: I am informed by the London and North Western Railway Company that the property referred to has not yet been transferred to them, but that they have entered into a conditional agreement to purchase it. The case appears to involve questions as to the rehousing of displaced labouring class persons, with regard to which I am bound to say that I consider the attitude adopted generally by this company to be very unsatisfactory. Without answering the latter parts of the question in detail, I may say that the whole matter is engaging my most serious consideration.

POLICE GRIEVANCES.

MR. LOUIS SINCLAIR (Essex, Romford): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if in the event of grievances arising in any police force, county or borough, whether caused by matters of preferment, dissatisfaction over pay and allowances, time of service, or other legitimate cause for complaint, to what responsible officer of the Crown can these difficulties be referred.

*MR. RITCHIE: County and borough police forces are by statute under the control of local authorities. The Secretary of State for the Home Department is the Minister most closely concerned, but he has no responsibility except in cases where the efficiency of a force is impaired, or where there is unsatisfactory administration of the pension fund; nor has he any power of direct intervention in matters of dispute between individual constables and the authorities under whom they serve.

TEA LOTTERIES.

MR. THOMAS DEWAR (Tower Hamlets, St. George's): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if his attention has been called to the fact of several convictions which have recently taken place for the illegal retail sale of tea upon a species of lottery system, notably at Coventry, Blackburn, Bury (Lancs.), Handsworth, and Hull; and, seeing that similar illegal forms of trading have existed within the metropolitan area for some years past without prosecutions being brought by the police, whether he will direct the attention of the Metropolitan Police authorities to any case brought under his notice forthwith with a view to bringing the offenders to justice.

*Mr. RITCHIE: The convictions referred to in the first paragraph of the question have not been brought specially to my notice. Sale-of-tea lotteries were begun in the Metropolis in 1895, and proceedings were promptly instituted, with the result that the defendants entered into an undertaking to discontinue such practices. Since that date no case has been brought to the notice of the Metropolitan Police.

VACCINATION AT BETHNAL GREEN.

Sir MANCHERJEE BHOWNAGGREE (Bethnal Green, N.E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will state how many prosecutions have been instituted by the vaccination officer of the borough of Bethnal Green since the passing of the Vaccination Act, 1898; (2) how many convictions were obtained; (3) and how many of the fines imposed remain unrecovered; (4) whether he is aware that most of the persons prosecuted were unable to defend themselves effectually owing to ignorance of the procedure provided under Section 2 of the aforementioned Act; and, if so (5), is he prepared to allow a remission of the fines imposed.

*Mr. RITCHIE: It would be impossible to give the information asked for in the first three queries without a search of the police court records or without reference to the guardians, and the work of obtaining the information would involve much time and labour. I have no reason to suppose that persons prosecuted under the Vaccination Acts in Bethnal Green have found any greater difficulty in defending themselves than persons similarly prosecuted in other places; but if the hon. Member will furnish me with full details of any case in which he thinks the defendant has suffered injustice I will inquire into it.

Sir MANCHERJEE BHOWNAGGREE: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he is aware that vaccination prosecutions in Bethnal Green and adjacent boroughs are being rigorously pursued against persons who have a conscientious objection to vaccination, and have resulted in convictions owing to the difficulty encountered by the accused persons of proving that their objection is based on a conscientious belief; and, seeing that in this respect and owing to loss of time and wages which is occasioned by the process of asserting their objection under Section 2 of the Vaccination Act, 1898, that Act does not give full relief to objectors, whether he purposes adopting any steps by which the operation of that Act might be rendered more easy and effective in future.

The PRESIDENT of the LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. Walter Long, Bristol, S.): I am not myself aware of difficulties of the kind referred to in the first paragraph of the question, and I should regret if any such difficulties were experienced. The answer to the second part of the question must, however, be in the negative.

FOOD ADULTERATION PROSECUTIONS — MISTAKES OF PUBLIC ANALYSTS.

Mr. THOMAS DEWAR: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that in several prosecutions recently against tradesmen for the alleged sale of adulterated articles, notably at Portsmouth and Hackney, it has been shown that the public analysts on whose statements action has been taken have been guilty of grave mistakes; and whether he can take any steps to prevent respectable tradesmen being unjustly summoned upon erroneous certificates.

Mr. WALTER LONG: I have communicated with the public analysts as regards the two instances referred to by my hon. friend. I find that certificates given by them in two cases were not upheld on reference to the Government Laboratory. The circumstances do not appear to show, however, that the analysts were open to blame. In one of the cases the analyst seems to have taken special care in the matter. I have no power to take any steps for the purpose mentioned in the last paragraph of the question, and I may say that, speaking generally, it appears to me that the tradesman is sufficiently protected by the power to have an analysis verified at Somerset House.

UNCLAIMED MONEYS AT THE BANK OF ENGLAND.

Mr. HEYWOOD JOHNSTONE (Sussex, Horsham): On behalf of the hon. Member for North Hackney, I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he can inform the House as to the amount of unclaimed dividends and other unclaimed moneys in the custody of the Bank of England; and whether there is any precedent for the application of such moneys to the public service, the Exchequer being liable to refund such moneys to proper claimants.

*The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER (Sir M. Hicks Beach, Bristol, W.): Various funds of the nature of unclaimed dividends in the hands of or under the control of Government have from time to time been applied to the public service, the Exchequer remaining liable to refund the money to any persons who may subsequently prove their claim. I am not aware of any precedent for dealing in this manner with funds outside the purview of Government. At the present time unclaimed dividends on British Funds are under statute handed over by the Bank after ten years to the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt. Unclaimed dividends on India Stocks are similarly surrendered to the Indian Government. The amounts at present in the possession of the Bank of England are: British Funds, £34,575; India Stocks, £41,496. The amount of other unclaimed dividends in the possession of the Bank is inconsiderable. With regard to unclaimed money of private customers, the Bank is, of course, in the same position as other banks.

SCHOOL BOARD OFFICIALS AS MEMBERS OF COUNTY COUNCILS.

Mr. HORNER (Lambeth, N.): I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education whether his attention has been called to the recent election to the London County Council of a schoolmaster who holds an appointment under the London School Board; whether it is permissible for a public official of the London School Board to use the time he should be devoting to his official duties for any other purpose than that for which he is paid by the ratepayers; and what steps he proposes to take.

The VICE-PRESIDENT of the BOARD OF EDUCATION (Sir J. Gorst, Cambridge University): No; my attention has not been called to the matter. The only regulation of the Board of Education bearing on the matter is to be found in Article 85 (e) of the Code.

Mr. HORNER: But has he not ceased *ipso facto* to be an official of the London School Board?

Sir J. GORST: My hon. friend must ask the London School Board.

Mr. HORNER: The information has been asked for, and no reply was obtained.

FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE.

Mr. TOLLEMACHE (Cheshire, Eddisbury): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture whether his attention has been called to the reported discovery in France of a cure for foot-and-mouth disease; and if he will cause inquiries to be made on a subject of such great importance to the agricultural community.

Mr. WALTER LONG (for Mr. Hanbury): The attention of the veterinary officers of the Board of Agriculture has been directed to the statements to which my hon. friend refers, and they will keep themselves informed of any further developments of the matter. I may say, however, that in view of the special characteristics of foot-and-mouth disease, it is not likely that the discovery of a remedy for it will be of much assistance to the Department in keeping this country entirely clear from it, a result which I trust may soon be once again secured, as it was from 1887 to 1891, and again from 1895 to 1899.

SWINE FEVER.

Mr. GEORGE WHITE (Norfolk, N.W.): I beg to ask the President of the

Board of Agriculture whether he is prepared to advise that compensation be given owners in case of deaths resulting from swine fever when such deaths are occasioned by the carelessness or incompetence of the veterinary surgeon employed by the Board of Agriculture.

MR. LONG (for Mr. HANBURY): The power to pay compensation in cases of swine fever only extends to swine slaughtered by order of the Board of Agriculture in the exercise of their powers under the Diseases of Animals Acts. Any complaints with regard to the conduct of veterinary surgeons employed by the Board would always be fully investigated and such action taken as the circumstances might require.

ELECTION PETITIONS.

MR. J. E. GORDON: I beg to ask Mr. Attorney General whether his attention has been drawn to the misuse of the Election Petition Courts by persons, lawyers, and laymen, who to their own pecuniary advantage employ themselves in making serious but fictitious charges against Members of this House with impunity; and whether the law has any penalties for such conduct.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Sir ROBERT FINLAY, Inverness Burghs): The procedure in the Election Petition Courts is no doubt capable of being abused, but I am not aware that this has been done for the sake of any pecuniary advantage. There is great difficulty in entirely obviating the danger of abuse without throwing obstacles in the way of recourse to the Courts in proper cases. I may refer my hon. friend to the Report of the recent Committee on Election Petitions in 1898.

AN HON. MEMBER: Has the hon. and learned Gentleman considered the judgment of the judges in the Cockermouth petition?

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: Yes, Sir; and I certainly agree with the conclusions arrived at.

ELECTRIC RAILWAYS—SUPPOSED RISK TO ALBERT MEMORIAL, ETC.

*SIR FRANCIS POWELL (Wigan): I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works whether he has considered the risk to the Albert Memorial and the Albert Hall which may be caused by the proposed electric railway at Kensington; and whether he proposes to institute inquiries and to take action should the reports be unfavourable.

THE FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS (Mr. AKERS DOUGLAS, Kent, St. Augustine's): Yes, Sir. The matter is under careful consideration as regards the Albert Memorial, but for the Albert Hall I am not responsible. The Government are in communication with the promoters of the Bill, and any necessary precautions for the safety of the Memorial beyond those provided in the Bill will be insisted upon. There will, of course, be other Government interests to be protected.

INFERIOR CEYLON TEAS.

MR. HENRY HOBHOUSE (Somersetshire, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury if his attention has been drawn to the fact that quantities of inferior Ceylon and other teas alleged to contain microbial products dangerous to health are being sold in bond in London at prices ranging below 4d. per pound; if the Customs officers have taken and analysed any samples of such teas, and with what results; and what amount has been seized and destroyed during the last twelve months; and if, in the interests of public health, he is willing to consent to an inquiry into the best methods of checking the sale of such unwholesome teas by determining some minimum standard of purity, and by securing a proper analysis of such teas before they are blended with other teas.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire): Since my hon. friend put his notice on the Paper, he has been good enough to send me papers on the subject, and I should be obliged if he would postpone his question till Monday, to give me time for their consideration.

REGISTERED LETTERS—COMPENSATION.

MR. THORNTON (Clapham): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether his attention has been called to the statement and table of figures printed on the back of the envelopes made to enclose registered packets, that, subject to the conditions published in the Post Office Guide as to registration, compensation for loss or damage is given in respect of inland registered packets of all kinds according to the following table which includes a fee of 2d. to secure compensation limited to £5; and seeing that this statement may lead the public to believe that by paying the 2d. registration fee they are ensuring repayment in full up to £5, of money which has been registered but which is lost in course of post, instead of the £2 limited by the above-mentioned conditions, whether he will give instructions that on all future issues of such envelopes a clearer statement shall be printed of the amount of specie recoverable through registration in the post.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: In view of the distinct reference to the conditions published in the Post Office Guide the Postmaster General thinks that no misapprehension ought to arise as regards the amount of compensation payable; but after careful consideration of the subject he has come to the conclusion that it will be safer to discontinue the table of rates now printed on the backs of the official registered letter envelopes, and merely to notify that compensation for loss or damage is given in respect of inland registered letters and packets subject to the limitations and conditions printed in the Post Office Guide under the head of "Registration and Compensation."

MANCHESTER TELEPHONE OPERATORS.

MR. SCHWANN: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he can say what is going to be done with regard to the female operators in the telephone department of the General Post Office, Manchester, who were transferred to the General Post Office from the National Telephone Company in 1897, with regard to an advance in their wages; and whether, seeing that they are all senior operators of from eight to fifteen years experience in telephone work, but have had no advance for three years, though juniors of three years experience are said to be receiving higher wages, and that various applications have been met with the statement that the question is under consideration, he could, if these statements be correct, come to a decision in favour of an increase of wages.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: In reply to the hon. Member I have to state that the Postmaster General is in communication with the Treasury on the subject of the position and pay of the telephone operators at Manchester and elsewhere; and he hopes to be in a position to announce a decision very shortly.

POSTAL TELEGRAPH CLERKS' ASSOCIATION.

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, having regard to the fact that the secretary of the metropolitan branch of the Postal Telegraph Clerks' Association applied for leave of absence to attend the annual business meeting and conference at Manchester on the 7th March, and that the postal officials took fourteen days to consider the application, and in view of past difficulties, whether the Postmaster General will direct that no obstacles are to be placed in the way of officials of trades unions in the Post Office performing the legitimate business of their organisation.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: All facilities, consistent with the proper performance of the work of the department and with the proper discipline of the service, are allowed to officers of the department who apply to attend the annual meetings of the Postal Telegraph Clerks' Association and similar bodies, on the legitimate business of those bodies. The delay in according leave, complained of in the present case, was in part due to the fact that the officer concerned did not in the first instance provide efficient substitutes on his duty.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE AT SOUTH UIST.

MR JOHN DEWAR (Inverness): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether the Secretary for Scotland is aware that, although it is stated in the Fourth Annual Report of the Local Government Board for Scotland (1898), page xxiii., that the Commissioner for the Local Government Board made an exhaustive inquiry into an outbreak of infectious disease in South Uist, it is true that the Commissioner refused to take the evidence of the clerk to the Parish Council of South Uist, who was the first person officially most conversant with the facts at issue; and, seeing that the parish council complained to the Lord Advocate and the Secretary for Scotland as well as to the First Lord of the Treasury of the misstatement of facts and refusal by the Commissioner to take evidence, whether any steps have been taken to inquire into or to rectify the statements complained of as misrepresentations by the parish council.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE (MR. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire): I am informed by the Local Government Board that they are not aware that their Commissioner ever declined to receive the evidence of the clerk to the parish council. On the contrary, the clerk to the parish council was cited to Lochboisdale with other witnesses but was unable to be present, being stormstaid at Castlebay. Any books and documents which the clerk might have produced were produced by the inspector of poor. It is not the intention of the Local Government Board to reopen the inquiry which they consider sufficient.

TREATMENT OF PAUPER CHILDREN IN IRELAND.

MR. DALY (Monaghan, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Local Government Board for Ireland have issued an order compelling boards of guardians in Ireland to supply out-nursed children with clothing; whether he is aware that there are boards of guardians who out-nurse children, and make arrangements with the foster parents to clothe and rear these workhouse children with their own children, with the view of removing the taint or appearance of pauperism; whether he can say if it is the intention of the Local Government Board, under the new rule, to compel out-nursed workhouse children to wear poorhouse suits when attending schools which they attend; and whether he will request this rule to be withdrawn by the Local Government Board.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover): The order referred to in the first paragraph requires guardians to provide suitable and sufficient clothing for orphan and deserted children placed outside the workhouse with foster parents. So far from it being the intention of the Local Government Board to compel these children to wear pauper uniform, the order expressly requires that the clothing shall not be of such shape or colour as may denote connection with the workhouse; and, moreover, with a view to avoid uniformity in the clothing, it was further pointed out that particular care should be taken that the materials, shape, and colour should not be alike in all cases. The Board are not aware of any case in which foster parents arrange with guardians to clothe the children. Any such arrangement involving payment to the foster parents by the guardians would be contrary to the regulations.

ROSCOMMON SCHOOL TEACHERS' FEES.

MR. HAYDEN (Roscommon, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the fact that there are several schools in Roscommon district the teachers of which have not yet been paid equivalent for results fees, although the annual examinations were held in those schools early in December; and, seeing that the said equivalent for results should have been paid with teachers' ordinary salaries on 15th January, whether he can state when this money will be paid the teachers, and what is the cause of delay.

MR. WYNDHAM: Some delay was occasioned, I understand, by the necessity for correspondence; but the equivalent for results fees is in course of payment to schools which were examined in December in this and other districts, and in nearly all cases payment has been actually made.

LIVE STOCK IN COUNTY MONAGHAN.

MR. DALY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of

Ireland whether he is aware that the County Council of Monaghan, under The Technical and Agricultural Act, 1899, invited each district council in the county to formulate a scheme for the locality interested, that the Monaghan Rural and Urban District only allotted £130 for the improvement of live stock while Carrickmacross Rural District Council required £600 for this purpose, and that at a meeting of the Live Stock Committee held in the town of Monaghan the scheme from Carrickmacross District Council was not considered, and that the Monaghan District scheme was made the basis for expenditure; whether he is aware that at the meeting of the Live Stock Committee in Monaghan, Mr. Gordon, of the Technical and Agricultural Department, stated that if £600 was carried instead of £260 the Department would not sanction it, which caused the members present to adopt the smaller sum; and will he say if Mr. Gordon had power to state the views of the Agricultural Department without consultation with that body, and if he will direct that a larger sum than £260 be spent on the improvement of live stock.

Mr. WYNDHAM: It was the Live Stock Committee of the Monaghan County Council who themeslves decided the amount to be allocated from the local rates to the county live stock schemes. This amount, which the Department approved, makes, together with the grant from the Department, a total of £520 applied to the improvement of live stock in the county Monaghan. Mr. Gordon, the Department's representative, did not interfere or advise the committee in fixing this amount, but he gave his opinion that the Department would not sanction a proposal which was made by the non-members that a sum of £600 should be applied from the local rates for the schemes in the Carrickmacross Rural District alone.

ULSTER WINTER ASSIZES.

Mr. JOHN CAMPBELL (Armagh, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that, although it was originally promised that the Ulster winter assizes should be held in Armagh every fourth year, they have been held there only once; and whether, seeing that Armagh is as central, and in possession of as good railway and other accommodation, as Derry, Omagh, or Belfast, he will see that this grievance is redressed by the holding of winter assizes in Armagh.

Mr. WYNDHAM: A question similar to this was addressed to my right hon. friend the Attorney General by the hon. Member for East Mayo on Tuesday last.† I have nothing to add to the reply given to that question.

LOUGH NEAGH.

Mr. SAMUEL YOUNG (Cavan, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that a large part of the district surrounding Lough Neagh has been flooded to such an extent during the past winter that in many of the houses of the inhabitants water for several weeks covered the floors to a considerable depth; and whether, seeing that epidemics of fevers and other like diseases have usually followed that state of matters in the past, he will direct the Local Government Inspector to visit and report upon the sanitary state of the district with a view to the adoption of measures to prevent such diseases in the district during the summer; whether his information shows that the drainage scheme planned and carried out by the Irish Board of Works has failed to provide the relief from flooding promised for it by their engineer; whether he is aware that the chief cost of the complete scheme of drainage has been assessed on and paid for by the tenant farmers of the district; and whether he will take immediate steps to have the drainage of the district for which the people have paid completed at the public expense.

Mr. WYNDHAM: The Local Government Board have received resolutions from local bodies to the effect that part of this district is subject to floods, but they have no information that epidemics of fever have resulted from such flooding. The works of the drainage district, which were completed in 1859, were entirely successful for the purposes sought to be effected for a number of years. The cost of the works in 1859 was charged in the usual way on the interests of the proprietors. I am not in a position, without further inquiry, to state to what extent increased rents have been imposed on the tenants consequent upon the improvements. I am not prepared to introduce in the present session legislation similar to that introduced and subsequently withdrawn in 1889.

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† See page 583 of this volume.

IRISH MAYORS AND COMMISSIONS OF ASSIZE.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the mayor of the city of Waterford is entitled, under charter of Charles I., to be included in the commission of assize for the city of Waterford; and whether he can give any explanation of the fact that the present mayor of the city has been excluded from the commission issued for the spring assizes this year.

*THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND (MR. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N.): With my right hon. friend's permission, I will reply to this question. I have not as yet been able to procure the patent to which the question refers. My impression is, however, that it only qualified the mayor to sit as a member of the commission, not entitled him. I would refer the hon. Member to an answer given by me on the 20th of February last year to a question put by the hon. Member for East Clare for the explanation why the mayors of the different assize towns in Ireland have been omitted from the commission of assize.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: May I ask the right hon. Gentleman if he will be kind enough to inform the present House of Commons the reason why these mayors who are qualified, if not entitled, to sit on these commissions, and have been so sitting from time immemorial, have been suddenly struck off?

*MR. ATKINSON: I have already explained that they have not been struck off. Their names simply have not been included. The positions which they occupy make them liable to be parties in litigation likely to come before the judges, and that is the reason why they have not been associated in the commission.

KILLARNEY LAKES.

MR. MURPHY (Kerry, E.): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney General for Ireland whether he is aware that barbed wire fences have been erected by the Earl of Kenmare along the Ross Castle entrance to the Lakes of Killarney; and that a large number of visitors have complained of the existence of these barbed wire fences; and whether, having regard to these complaints, he will take steps to have these fences removed.

*MR. ATKINSON: The fact is as stated in the first paragraph, though, so far as the police are aware, no complaints have been made by tourists of the existence of the barbed wire fences. It is permissible to place barbed wire on the fence of a public road unless it be in such a position as to amount to an obstruction. I am not aware whether the wire has been placed along the public road in the present instance, but in any case I am informed that it is the intention of Lord Kenmare's agent to remove the wire without delay.

ARMAGH MAGISTRACY.

MR. JOHN CAMPBELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state the number and religious beliefs of the resident magistrates in county Armagh.

MR. WYNDHAM: The county Armagh is comprised in the districts of three resident magistrates, all of whom, I believe, are Protestants.

IRISH SCHOOL INSPECTORS.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL (Kerry, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will grant the Return respecting school inspectors in Ireland, notice for which stands on to-day's Paper.

MR. WYNDHAM: The number of Inspectors of National Education in Ireland is eighty-six. A list of their names and various ranks is published in Thom's Directory. I am inquiring whether a Return containing this information, supplemented by the dates of the appointments of the inspectors, should be published as a separate Parliamentary Paper, or whether it cannot be embodied in the Annual Reports of the Commissioners which are laid before Parliament. As at present advised, I am not prepared to consent to the Return in the form asked by the hon. Member.

GLIN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL.

*MR. O'SHAUGHNESSY (Limerick, West): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to a resolution by the Board of Management of the Glin Industrial School in reference to the want of railway or steamship accommodation, to Glin, whereby the school board is put to expense in obtaining its supplies, which would be reduced if the steamboat plying between Limerick and Tarbert called at Glin; also is he aware of the hardship that the children from the various unions in said county undergo in travelling on outside cars to the school; and whether he will take steps to have the steamboat plying between Limerick and Tarbert call at Glin, and also have a light railway laid from Foynes to Tarbert viâ Shanagolden, Ballyhahill, and Glin, which would be a benefit to the public and render access to said industrial school easier.

MR. WYNDHAM: The Waterford Steamship Company are willing that their steamer should call at Glin provided that certain conditions, which have been communicated to the Board of Management of the Industrial school, are fulfilled. There are no funds available for the construction of the railway suggested in the question.

BIRR AND PORTUMNA RAILWAY.

MR. ROCHE (Galway, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether, having regard to the fact that the Government have already consented to give a grant of £12,000 in aid of the reconstruction of the Birr and Portumna Line, and that the International Railway Corporation have offered to spend £12,000 more in its reconstruction, if necessary, and also to equip and work the line, he will allow the line to be re-opened.

MR. WYNDHAM: As already stated by me, the proposals of the International Railway Corporation have been brought by the Irish Government before the Treasury, who did not see their way to hold out any expectation that they will consent to a grant of £12,000 in aid of the reconstruction of the line.

LONGFORD SPRING ASSIZES.

MR. J. P. FARRELL (Longford, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the address to the grand jury of county Longford at the spring assizes on 4th March, complimenting them on the entire absence from all serious crime of the county of Longford, and stating that it was a matter of the greatest satisfaction to find the general condition of the county so peaceful and orderly; and will he, in view of this fact, direct the police to discontinue all interference with the organisation of the United Irish League.

MR. WYNDHAM: I have seen a newspaper report of the judge's address to the grand jury at Longford assizes on the 4th inst. The judge's observations, so far as I can gather, appear to have been based on the number of cases in which bills were submitted to the grand jury, and did not refer, as alleged, to "the entire absence from all serious crime of the county of Longford." The police do not interfere with the organisation of the United Irish League.

UNITED IRISH LEAGUE AT BALLINALEE.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland will he explain by whose order County Inspector M'Dermott, with District Inspectors Rodwell and Millar, attended by 100 policemen armed with rifles, proceeded to Ballinalee on Sunday last to prevent the East Collumbkille fife and drum band from playing outside the League rooms in Ballinalee, in which the North Longford executive of the United Irish League was holding its monthly meeting; is he aware that these policemen kept following the band up and down the village of Ballinalee, and refused to allow them to stand for a moment at any house; can he explain what was the meaning of such conduct considering that the band had come a long distance merely to exercise; whether he is aware that no public meeting of any kind was intended or attempted, and no person or persons were boycotted or in any way interfered with in the neighbourhood; and whether the county inspector ordered this display contrary to the advice and wish of his subordinate officers; and will an inquiry be made into all the circumstances of the case.

MR. WYNDHAM: I have called for a detailed report dealing with some of the allegations contained in this question, and would prefer to postpone my reply until I have received the report. Perhaps the hon. Member will repeat the question on Monday.

TENANCY OF IRISH GRAZING TRACTS.

DR. AMBROSE (Mayo, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in view of the fact that those in occupation of the grazing tracts in the congested districts of Ireland are only eleven months tenants, and therefore have no interest in the land, he will use his influence with the Congested Districts Board when contemplating the purchase of such lands, with a view to induce it to treat directly with the landlord and not with those eleven months tenants.

MR. WYNDHAM: This question will be brought before the Congested Districts Board at its next meeting on the 15th inst., and I must ask the hon. Member to defer it, therefore, until after that date.

IRISH LANGUAGE IN IRISH SCHOOLS.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in order to enable Irish National teachers to meet the desire that at present exists for the teaching of the Irish language in Irish National schools, the Commissioners of National Education will establish classes for the teaching of Irish to teachers during the summer holidays, as they have already done in the case of manual instruction, and also to establish Saturday or evening classes for the same purpose.

MR. WYNDHAM: There are no funds at the disposal of the Commissioners for the purpose stated.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL: May I ask the right hon. Gentleman if it is not a fact that the managers of schools in Ireland are at present unable to find teachers who can teach the Irish language, in consequence of the lack of funds?

MR. WYNDHAM: I cannot by way of question and answer across the floor of the House debate a question which can be raised on the Estimates.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: Could not the right hon. Gentleman suggest that a special Estimate should be put on for this purpose?

MR. WYNDHAM: It is too late to suggest any addition to the Estimates for the present year.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: Supplementary Estimates are not unknown.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: Neither are Votes on Account.

DUBLIN POSTAL STAFF.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether, as the scale of the male supervising force was increased at last revision, a proportionate increase will be granted to the female supervising officers of the Dublin staff; whether the Postmaster General will remedy the grievances of the Dublin female telegraphists, as numbers of them have been for years at their maxima and are constantly performing supervising duties; whether the Postmaster General will, by increasing the number of female supervising appointments in the Dublin General Post Office, abolish the practice of female telegraphists supervising; whether the proposed increase in the Dublin female staff is to be made by giving appointments to telegraphists drafted from other offices; and whether it was in consequence of this drafting that no competitive examination was held in Dublin last December for female learners; and will the Postmaster General now have the proposed increase in the Dublin female staff supplied altogether from candidates chosen after open competitive examination, thus giving opportunities to candidates who have been preparing for these examinations.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The Postmaster General is not aware that the scales of salary for the male telegraph supervising staff at Dublin were increased at the last revision. The scales for the female supervising officers are those proper to their class at offices such as Dublin, and no reason is seen for increasing them. As regards any addition to the number of supervising appointments, this question will be dealt with on its merits in the revision now under consideration; but, as stated in the answer given on the 28th ultimo, the number of such appointments cannot be increased merely in order to afford promotion to telegraphists at the maximum of their scale. It was found necessary during the course of the year 1900, and pending the revision at Dublin, to provide by experienced assistance for the increase of work in the telegraph office; and a small number of telegraphists were, in these circumstances, transferred to Dublin from other offices, thus rendering a competitive examination in December, for female learners in Dublin, needless. It is proposed to make the transfer permanent in the case of any officer who satisfies the requirements of the post to be filled. It is necessary in order to provide for emergencies that such transfers should be occasionally made, and while the expedient is not resorted to unless in exceptional instances it is not possible to forego its use.

IRISH GOVERNMENT PRINTING.

Mr. KENNEDY (Westmeath, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he is aware that the printing required for the office of Clerk of the Crown and Peace in Ireland, not merely in connection with franchise and jurors' lists and Crown business, but also for the purposes of its equity business, is obtained at the expense of the local rates; and whether, seeing that the various fees paid by the public in connection with the latter business are lodged to the credit of the Treasury, the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury will direct that the printing be supplied from the same source.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The hon. Member has been misinformed. No printing is required in connection with equity business, and all books so required are supplied by the Stationery Office, on application. Local rates bear no expenses in connection with such business.

THE ROYAL DECLARATION AGAINST ROMAN CATHOLICISM.

Colonel NOLAN (Galway, N.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he has taken through the usual channels any steps to ascertain if a Bill to modify the Royal Declaration would pass without serious opposition from any organised section of the House, and would thus facilitate instead of impeding public business; and whether his attention has been drawn to the numerous resolutions now being passed by public bodies against the idolatrous terms of the Royal Declaration.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: This question is on precisely similar lines to many which have already appeared on the Paper, and which I have already answered. I have nothing to add to the many statements I have already made to the House.

Colonel NOLAN: Will the right hon. Gentleman say whether he is going to bring in a Bill, and whether he has ascertained through the usual channels what time it would occupy to pass.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not think the hon. and gallant Gentleman has any right to ask me questions as to how or whence I derive my impressions as to the time to be taken up by any Bill.

Colonel NOLAN: I apologise to the right hon. Gentleman, but I should like him to give me some information on the subject.

Mr. O'SHAUGHNESSY: Will the right hon. Gentleman say whether he has received resolutions of protest against the idolatrous terms of the Declaration from the Limerick Corporation?

Mr. SPEAKER: That does not arise out of the question.

THE NEW COINAGE.

Mr. BRIGG (Yorkshire, W.R., Keighley): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if he will consider the propriety of postponing the issue of any new coinage having on it the head of the King until decimal coinage is introduced.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: The new coinage must be settled in the course of the current year. I do not think that the country is prepared for any fundamental change such as the question suggests.

ELECTORAL ANOMALIES—IRISH REPRESENTATION.

Mr. LOUIS SINCLAIR: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, having regard to the fact that the Romford Division of Essex numbers no less than 33,000 electors, and is increasing that number by about 5,000 per annum, and has only one representative, he will consider the advisability of permanently suspending two of the writs of Irish Members and issuing them to that portion of the county of Essex comprised in the Romford Division.

Mr. FLYNN (Cork County, N.): Did the hon. Member before putting the question consult the Irish Members whom he has asked to back his Bills?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I am quite aware that my hon. friend's constituency is perhaps the greatest of the many great anomalies which at present signalise our Parliamentary system. But I think that his method of dealing with those anomalies is somewhat crude. I do not think I can promise him legislation on those lines.

ROYAL VISIT TO THE COLONIES—SUGGESTED VISIT TO INDIA.

Sir MANCHERJEE BHOWNAGGREE: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether it would be possible to include in the course of the forthcoming tour of their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York to the Commonwealth of Australia and the Dominion of Canada a visit to the Empire of India, where the presence of the Heir to the Throne with his consort would be regarded as a most gracious compliment by the princes and peoples, and be productive of beneficent results similar to those which followed the memorable visit thirty years ago of His Majesty the King as Prince of Wales.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: In answer to my hon. friend I have to say that the pressure upon the time of their Royal Highnesses is so great that it would be impossible, I am afraid, to carry out the scheme which he suggests.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I wish to ask the right hon. Gentleman as to the business of the House, and especially with regard to two points—on what days he proposes to take the appointment of the Committee on the Civil List, and the statement of the Secretary of State for War on the Army Estimates. I would also ask the right hon. Gentleman whether it would not be desirable, seeing that that statement, if all things we hear are true, will be of unusual complexity and importance, that the discussion should be postponed until Members have the opportunity of considering it in print.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: As regards the Civil List, my right hon. friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer will bring forward his motion as the first Order on Monday next. The arrangement for to-morrow stands—namely, my right hon. friend the Secretary of State for War will make his statement, with Mr. Speaker in the chair. I think the right hon. Gentleman's request that there should be an adjournment after the statement is made is reasonable, and I shall be glad to comply with it. The business to be taken after the statement will probably be the Army Estimates; and they will be taken also after the motion with regard to the Civil List is disposed of.

SUSPENSION OF MEMBERS (5TH MARCH)—POLICE IN THE HOUSE.

Mr. DILLON (Mayo, E.): I desire to ask by whose orders a body of police entered this House last Wednesday morning; under whose command the police were when inside the House; and whether since Oliver Cromwell entered the House with soldiers in 1653 there is any precedent for the entry of soldiers or police into the Commons' Chamber for the purpose of forcibly removing hon. members of this House.

*Mr. SPEAKER: To whom does the hon. Gentleman address the question?

Mr. DILLON: I addressed the question to you, Sir; but perhaps I ought to have addressed it to the Leader of the House.

*Mr. SPEAKER: I have no objection to answer it, though, strictly, it is not a question that ought to be addressed to me. The police entered this House by my orders. They were under the immediate control of Inspector Scantlebury. As to the historical question, I am afraid I have not made the necessary research.

THE CASE OF MR. JORDAN.

*Mr. SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that I have received the following letter from the hon. Member for South Fermanagh (Mr. Jordan). It reached me yesterday afternoon.

To the 6th March, 1901.
Right Honourable William Gully,
Speaker of the House of Commons.
Sir,

I, the undersigned Member of the House of Commons, desire to bring the following facts under your notice.

On this day I was reported by the Chairman of Committees to you as having refused to leave the House when a division was called, and having defied his ruling. There is no foundation for that statement, as I did leave the House when the division was called, and only returned to it, in common with the other Members in the lobbies, when the Chairman announced his intention of reporting those Members who did not leave the House.

I am now prevented from entering the House, and I desire to claim my right to enter the House, and discharge my duty to my constituents.

(Signed) Jeremiah Jordan.

Upon receipt of that letter I informed the hon. Member for East Mayo that I thought, as it raised a strong *prima facie* case of error in the report, the hon. Member was entitled to have the advantages of priority—such as are given to questions of privilege—in order that an alleged mistake directly affecting the Parliamentary position of an hon. Member may be corrected, and therefore I informed him that I would call him on early with his motion. At the same time, I desire to state that this decision arises out of the special circumstances of the case, and must not be taken as a precedent in any way for the proposition that where the House has suspended a Member, and in order to rescind that order and to restore him again to the House, he is entitled to any privilege. He is not entitled, as such, to any privilege. The other point to which I would call attention is that, in granting precedence to this motion as a matter arising out of the special circumstances of the case, discussion upon it must be confined strictly to the question whether the hon. Member for South Fermanagh is the victim of error, and whether in point of fact he did disobey the ruling of the Chair.

Mr. DILLON: The motion I have to make is as follows: "That the Order made on Tuesday, 5th March, suspending twelve Members from the service of the House, be rescinded in so far as it applies to Mr. Jordan." I must not be taken as accepting the view that the other Members mentioned in the Order—— [Cries of "Order" from the Ministerial benches.] I would be out of order in entering into that matter on this motion, and I allude to it only for the purpose of safeguarding myself from an inference which might very easily be drawn from the form of the motion I now submit to the House. I pass from that subject, merely placing on record my belief, gathered from the evidence of colleagues, that besides Mr. Jordan there were several others mentioned in the Order who did not defy the authority of the Chair, but some of whom at a later period did refuse to obey the Chair through indignation at the treatment they had received.

In recommending this motion to the House, it will plainly be necessary for me very briefly to recall to the memory of the House what occurred on this Wednesday morning. I was not present myself, and I have collected the facts. [Cries of "Order."] Hon. Members might give me fair play. We may have an angry debate by and by, but this is a matter on which I have always known the House of Commons to give fair play. This is a question of an injustice, as I claim, inflicted upon a Member of this House, who has just as good a right, as far as his action is concerned, to sit here and take part in the debates as any other Member. I wish to explain the absolute necessity under which I lie of giving a brief *resume* of the facts of Wednesday morning, in order to establish my case. I shall do nothing more than that. Why do I lie under that necessity? It is because there is on the official record of the House a distinct statement on the authority of the Chairman of the House, that he had observed Mr. Jordan to be one of the Members who had refused to obey his ruling. I am not entitled to do what some hon. Members apparently, from the interruption I heard a moment ago, thought I was entitled to do—namely, appeal to Mr. Jordan's letter and claim the privilege that the hon. Member for South Fermanagh should be taken at his word. I am not in a position to base my case upon that moral claim, because there is a conflict of testimony between the statements in that letter and the official record of the House, the declaration of the Chairman that he had himself observed Mr. Jordan as one of those who refused to obey his ruling. That places upon me the absolute necessity of endeavouring to establish my case in favour of Mr. Jordan. I have collected the facts from three sources—the official record, which I hold in my hand, *The Times* report, which is rather full, and which, although it has no official value, is, on *quantum valeat*, considerable testimony, and the evidence of my colleagues, and of some other Members whom I have consulted as to what happened. The official record is as follows—

> "Several Members refused to leave the House to proceed to the division lobby. Whereupon the Chairman directed the doors to be unlocked in order to report the matter to the Speaker.
>
> "Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.
>
> "The Chairman reported, That several Members, the hon. Member for South-East Cork, North Kerry, South Tipperary, North Meath, North Leitrim, East Limerick, North-East Cork, West Cavan, East Tyrone, South Fermanagh, East Cork, and West Cork, had refused to leave the House and proceed to the division lobby when directed to do so by him."

Therefore the Chairman is responsible for stating that of his own knowledge. The official record proceeds—

> "Mr. Speaker appealed to the hon. Members in the interests of the House not to persist in their refusal to obey the Chair."

But note that this is a very important matter, because the record in this case, I will contend, is inaccurate.

> "But the said hon. Members having repeated their determination not to leave the House for the division———"

"The said hon. Members having repeated their determination." Now, I am authorised on the part of Mr. Jordan to say that he did not refuse in the first instance, that he went into the lobby to vote like all the other Members, and, in the second place, he did not repeat his determination. It was an intention which he never entertained, and therefore in both these particulars I have to maintain that the official record is inaccurate. That will, I think, make it clear to hon. Members that my motion is very simple. I have consequently to impugn the authority of the Chairman on a matter of fact, and to impugn the correctness of the official record of the House in two particulars. I take, as my first evidence, *The Times* report, and I think hon. Members when they listen to it will see the enormous importance, even supposing the report is not minutely and verbally accurate, the enormous importance of the account of the transactions given in *The Times*. This is what *The Times* report says—

> "The CHAIRMAN: Order, order! If the hon. Members decline to proceed to the division lobbies, I must report the circumstances to the Speaker.
>
> "Mr. P. M'HUGH: Bring in your policemen [cheers], but we are not going to divide.
>
> "The CHAIRMAN then despatched a message to the Speaker.
>
> "Members now came back from the lobbies and re-occupied the benches, while Mr. Nicholson, one of the Clerks at the Table, proceeded to the Irish benches to take the names of the recalcitrants."

That clearly shows—and I have abundant other evidence to the same effect—that the names of the so-called or supposed recalcitrant Members were actually being taken down in, as I contend, an utterly irregular fashion by one of the Clerks of the Table, and that the Chairman had called the division off, and Members on both sides had commenced to troop back from the lobbies.

Now, that is my first point, and my statement, which I am authorised and requested by Mr. Jordan to make, is that when he heard the division called, he immediately obeyed the order of the Chairman, that he proceeded into the "No" lobby and remained in the "No" lobby until he heard the division was off, and that he then returned to the House along with a number of other Members on these benches. On his return to the House after he had obeyed the order, he was met by one of the clerks, who, with a pencil and paper in his hand, took down his name as one of the recalcitrant Members. I proceed with *The Times* report. The Chairman on the return of the Speaker, reported and spoke as follows—

> "Mr. Speaker, I have to report to you, Sir, that during the course of the division I had put the question which I was ordered to put by the House as a result of the division upon the closure. During the course of that division a certain number of Members of the House declined to leave their seats [loud Nationalist cheers] and to proceed into the division lobbies. I requested them more than once to proceed, but I gathered from the observations which fell from these hon. Members or some of them that they declined to proceed. Thereupon I thought it was due to the House, in the position in which we found ourselves, that I should follow the precedent which had been set on a former occasion and ask you, Sir, to return to the chair. It was impossible for me, Sir, to see all the hon. Members who declined to leave their seats, but I may say that among those whom I was able to observe"

—note, confirming the official record—

> "were the Members for South-East Cork, North Kerry, South Tipperary, North Meath, North Leitrim, East Limerick, North-East Cork, West Cavan, East Tyrone, South Fermanagh, East Cork, and West Cork."

Mr. SPEAKER: I must point out to the hon. Member that, as he is quite aware, no attack must be made on the action of the Chairman of Committees except upon express notice.

*Mr. DILLON: All I was saying was that, as a matter of fact, the Member for South Fermanagh did not decline to leave the House. He went into the lobby, as I have already stated, and it was on his return from the lobby, after obeying the Chair in the fullest sense, that his name was taken down and returned as one of the recalcitrants. That is the story which I have to tell to the House from the hon. Member himself, and in a most important particular it is confirmed by *The Times* report, because, as hon. Members will recollect, *The Times* report declares that the Clerk at the Table was busy taking down the names of Members after Members on all sides of the House had returned to the House. What I contend is that in this instance a departure was made from the usual practice, and that, as a matter of fact, the names submitted to you, Sir, were, at all events to some extent, collected by one of the clerks at the Table, and that in the case of Mr. Jordan, and in some other cases which I am not bringing before the House for various reasons, a mistake was made owing to that fact. It may be said—and I have no doubt it will be said—why did not Mr. Jordan, when the Speaker, on returning to the chair, made an appeal to hon. Members to obey the order of the Chair, stand up and declare that his name was wrongfully reported? I must deal first of all with what actually occurred. According to the official record and the report of *The Times*, you, Sir, addressed a question to hon. Members collectively as to whether they persisted in their determination not to clear the House. There was then no division going on——

*Mr. SPEAKER: The names of hon. Members had been called out by their constituencies, and I did not call on hon. Members collectively, but only on those whose constituencies had been named.

Mr. DILLON: I recollect that fact perfectly, and I was coming to it. I have made careful inquiry on this point, and I am assured that your question, Sir, was answered by a shout from the Irish benches, and in the general uproar and excitement it would have been perfectly impossible for anyone to say, as regards all those Members, whether all of them declared that they were determined to persist in their refusal. That is a very important point, and I assert on behalf of Mr. Jordan, an absent Member, that he did not answer Mr. Speaker in that sense; that he had no intention of offending against order; and that he did not offend against order. The only precedent exactly on all fours which I have in my mind was that of 21st May, 1896, when the Chairman interrupted the proceedings on the Agricultural Land Rating Bill and sent for you, Mr. Speaker. What occurred on that occasion?

* MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member is now proceeding to discuss the conduct of the Chairman on Tuesday night. He is not entitled to do so. The discussion must be entirely confined to the question of whether there was or was not an error in the report he made. The hon. Member cannot go into the precedents and say that the Chairman should have acted in such and such a way, as was done on previous occasions. That is to attack the conduct of the Chair.

MR. DILLON: But, Sir, I am entitled, surely, to use any argument calculated to carry my point, which is of importance to the discussion. I do not desire to attack the Chair, but surely my mouth will not be closed on the all-important question to the fate of my motion—namely, as to why Mr. Jordan did not reply when you, Sir, made the appeal from the chair. I maintain that it was impossible for anybody in the circumstances to judge, when that collective appeal was made, whether Mr. Jordan was a party to that refusal.

*MR. SPEAKER: I must ask the hon. Member to avoid attacking the Chair.

MR. DILLON: Certainly, Sir. I was only alluding very briefly to the fact that on a previous occasion, when a similar suspension took place, you, Sir, asked each individual Member, myself included, this question—"Do I understand the hon. Member also to decline to leave the House? Mr. Dillon: Yes, Sir, I do decline." Then you asked Dr. Tanner and each other Member, man by man, and each admitted his offence and his intention to persist in that offence in spite of your appeal. Then and then only you took action against those Members. I was not for a moment endeavouring or desiring to find fault with your procedure, but I mention that case for the purpose of explaining how it came to pass that an error may have arisen, and you may have been led to think that Mr. Jordan was defying the Chair. In this instance Mr. Jordan left the House, as he tells me, without waiting to be removed from it; and the only point of controversy is why he did not rise up and there and then protest against being named. In this instance, according to my information, all those Members who did stand up were shouted down. I am told that even a right hon. Gentleman on the Front Opposition Bench endeavoured to address the House, and it was impossible in the state of excitement which prevailed for any man—much less for one of those incriminated—to get a fair hearing for his statement. In the temper and excitement which prevailed, it was not unnatural for an hon. Member, smarting under a sense of great injustice, and guilty of no breach of the rules, to think that the wisest and most dignified course to take was quietly to walk out of the House. That is my case. I do not wish to enter into anything which is not essential to it, and therefore I beg to move.

COLONEL NOLAN seconded the motion.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Order of the House made on Tuesday, the 5th day of March, suspending twelve Members from the service of the House, be rescinded so far as it applies to Mr. Jordan."—(*Mr. Dillon.*)

*THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES (Mr. J. W. LOWTHER, Cumberland, Penrith): After the letter which you, Sir, have read from the hon. Member for South Fermanagh, I desire frankly and at once to say that I admit that I must have made a mistake. Therefore, as far as I am concerned, I have no objection whatever to the acceptance of the motion. But I think, at the same time, that it is due to myself as well as to the House to explain as briefly as may be the circumstances in which that mistake arose. I am sure I shall receive the sympathy of a great number of Members of the House in the very difficult position in which I found myself. The difficulty was much increased by the fact that a great number of Gentlemen on Tuesday night challenged my decision, and refused to leave their places. In order to make certain I jotted down, as far as I could judge from my position at the Table, the names of those Gentlemen whom I saw remaining in the House and refusing to leave; but, in order to make absolutely certain, I requested the Clerk at the Table to be kind enough to obtain the names of the

Gentlemen who refused to leave. Whilst that proceeding was going on it is perfectly obvious, after what has fallen from the hon. Member for East Mayo, and his statement of the circumstances—it is perfectly obvious that certain hon. Members returned to the House. But I must point out that it was not until my list was completed that I sent to ask you, Sir, to return to the chair. The only objection which I have to make to the statement of the hon. Member for East Mayo in his relation of the circumstances is the statement that I sent for the Speaker before my list was completed. That is not so; I completed my list, verifying it from the list which I had received from the Clerk at the Table; and it was not until that list was completed, and I saw those Gentlemen in the House, that I formally sent for you, Mr. Speaker. I have no doubt that the mistake arose from the fact that the hon. Member for South Fermanagh was under the impression that the Speaker had been sent for, and thereupon returned to his place; and so his name came to appear on the list. I take upon myself full responsibility for the mistake which occurred. I admit that it was a mistake, and I am extremely sorry that it occurred. I apologise to the House and to the hon. Member for South Fermanagh for any inconvenience which he may have suffered.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: After the statement of the Chairman of Committees, and after what has fallen from the hon. Member for East Mayo, I have no doubt that the House will, without further discussion, agree to the motion of the hon. Member.

Question put, and agreed to.

SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE (EXEMPTION FROM THE STANDING ORDER).

Motion made, and Question put, "That the proceedings on the Amendment of Standing Order No. 21, if under discussion at Twelve o'clock this night, be not interrupted under the Standing Order, Sittings of the House."—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

The House divided:—Ayes, 304; Noes 181. (Division List No. 42.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt Sir Alex. F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Aird, Sir John
Allhusen, Aug. Henry Eden
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arrol, Sir William
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Col. James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)
Balfour, Maj. K. R. (Christch
Banbury, Frederick George
Banes, Major George Edward
Barry, Sir Francis T. (Windsor
Bartley, George C. T.
Bathurst, Hn. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H (Bristol)
Beach, Rt. Hn. W. W. B. (Hants.
Beckett, Ernest William
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middle'x
Bowles, T. Gibson (King's Lynn
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Brown, Alexander H. (Shropsh.
Bullard, Sir Harry
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Carlile, William Walter
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.
Chamberlain, J Austen (Worc'r
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.
Coddington, Sir William
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Chas. Ready
Colston, Charles E. H. Athole
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cox, Irwin Edw. Bainbridge
Cranborne, Viscount
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cross, H. Shepherd (Bolton)
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Dewar, T. R (T'r H'mlets, S. Geo
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dimsdale, Sir J. Cockfield
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir Wm. Theodore
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. Hart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, George Denison
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
Fergusson, Rt Hn. Sir J. (Manc'r
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
FitzGerald, Sir R. Penrose-
Fitzroy, Hon. Edw. Algernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Sir M. (Lond. Univer.
Garfitt, William
Gibbs, Hn A. G. H. (City of Lond.
Gibbs, Hn. Vicary (St. Albans)
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin & Nairn
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)
Gordon, Maj Evans-(T'r H'ml'ts

Gorst, Rt. Hn. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hn. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene,SirEW(B’rySEdm’nds
Grenfell, William Henry
Gretton, John
Greville, Hon. Roland
Groves, James Grimble
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hain, Edward
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton,RtHnLordG(Middx
Hamilton,Marq.of (Londond’y
Hardy, L. (Kent, Ashford)
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, F. Leverton(Tynem’th
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Arth. Howard (Hanley
Heath, James(Staffords,N.W.
Heaton, John Henniker
Helder, Augustus
Henderson, Alexander
Hermon-Hodge, Robt. Trotter
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hoare, Ed. Brodie(Hampstead
Hobhouse, Henry(Somerset,E.
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope, J.F.(Sheffield,Bright’de
Horner, Frederick William
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Hoult, Joseph
Howard,Capt.J.(KentFaversh
Howard,J. (Midd.,Tottenham
Hozier, Hon. James H. Cecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hughes, Colonel Edwin
Hutton, John (Yorks, N.R.)
Jackson, Rt.Hon.Wm.Lawies
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Kenyon,Hn. Geo.T. (Denbigh)
Kenyon, James (Lancs., Bury)
Kimber, Henry
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Knowles, Lees
Lambton,Hon.Frederick Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawrence, William F.
Lawson, John Grant
Lecky, Rt. Hon.Wm. Edw.H.
Lee,Capt.AH.(Hants,Fareh’m
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leighton, Stanley
Leveson-Gower,FrederickN.S.
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. C. W. (Evesham)
Long,Rt.Hn.Walter(Bristol,S
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)

Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis(Lowestoft
Lucas,ReginaldJ(Portsmouth)
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macartney,RtHnW.G.Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maconochie, A. W.
M‘Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M‘Calmont,Col.J.(Antrim,E.)
M‘Iver,SirLewis(EdinburghW
M‘Killop, Jas. (Stirlingshire)
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Maple, Sir John Blundell
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Massey-Mainwaring,Hn.W.F.
Maxwell,RtHnSirHE(Wigton
Maxwell,WJH(Dumfriesshire
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
Milner,RtHon.SirFrederickG.
Milward, Colonel Victor
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon
Montague,Hn.J.Scott(Hants.)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
More, R. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton,ArthurH.A.(Deptford
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Muntz, Philip A.
Murray,RtHnAGraham (Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col.Wyndham(Bath)
Myers, William Henry
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Nicholson, William Graham
Nichol, Donald Ninian
O’Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Parker, Gilbert
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease, Herbert P.(Darlington)
Pemberton, John S. G.
Penn, John
Percy, Earl
Pilkington, Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Charles Bine

Rentoul, James Alexander
Richards, Henry Charles
Ridley,Hn.M.W(Staleybridge
Ritchie, Rt. Hn.Chas.Thomson
Robertson,Herbert (Hackney)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Round, James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W.
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Saunderson, Rt. Hn. Col. E. J.
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seely,CaptJ.E.B.(IsleofWight
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart,M.H.(Renfrew)
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, E.)
Smith,JamesParker(Lanarks.
Smith, Hon. W. F. D.(Strand)
Spencer,Ernest(W.Bromwich)
Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
Stanley, Edw. Jas. (Somerset)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir J. M.
Stock, James Henry
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Stroyan, John
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot,Rt.Hn.J.G.(Oxf’dUni.
Tennant, Harold John
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Tufnell, Col. Edward
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Wason,JohnCathcart(Orkney
Webb, Col. William George
Welby,Lt.-Col.A.C.E (Tauntn
Wharton, Rt. Hon. John L.
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset)
Williams,RtHnJ.Powell (Bir.
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wills, Sir Frederick
Wilson, A.Stanley(York,E.R.
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd,Wm. H.(Yorks.)
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C.B. Stuart-
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
Young, Commander(Berks,E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Rhondda)
Allan, William (Gateshead)
Allen, Chas. P. (Glouc.,Stroud

Ambrose, Robert
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hon. H. Henry

Atherley-Jones, L.
Barlow, John Emmott
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)

Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bell, Richard
Black, Alexander William
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Boyle, James
Brigg, John
Brown, Geo. M. (Edinburgh)
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caine, William Sproston
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carew, James Laurence
Carvill, Patrick Geo. Hamilton
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Cogan, Denis J.
Colville, John
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter
Crombie, John William
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Delany, William
Dewar, J. A. (Inverness-shire)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dillon, John
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, James A.
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, John Edward
Emmott, Alfred
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
Flynn, James Christopher
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gladstone, Rt. Hn Herbert John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Richard Burdon
Hammond, John
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm.
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harrington, Timothy
Harwood, George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (Bristol, E.)
Horniman, Frederick John
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, David Brynmor (Swan'a
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennedy, Patrick James
Kinloch, Sir J. George Smyth
Kitson, Sir James
Labouchere, Henry
Lambert, George
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Leng, Sir John
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M‘Arthur, William (Cornwall
M‘Crae, George
M‘Dermott, Patrick
McKenna, Reginald
McKillop, W. (Sligo, North)
M‘Laren, Charles Benjamin
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mather, William
Mellor, Rt. Hn. John William
Mooney, John J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen
Morley, Charles (Breconshire)
Morley, Rt. Hn. John (Montrose
Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)
Moulton, John Fletcher
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Newnes, Sir George
Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien. K. (Tipperary, Mid)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, J. (Roscommon, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Palmer, Sir Chas. M. (Durham
Palmer, George Wm. (Reading)
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Perks, Robert William
Pirie, Duncan V.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, Robert John
Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rickett, J. Compton
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Robson, William Snowdon
Roche, John
Roe, Sir Thomas
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, Charles E.
Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfarsh.)
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer, Rt Hn C. R. (Northants
Stevenson, Francis S.
Strachey, Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.
Thomas, Alfred (Glamorgan, E.
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thomas, F. Freeman-(Hastings
Thomson, F. W. (York, W.R.
Tomkinson, James
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Tully, Jasper
Wallace, Robert
Walton, John Lawson (Leeds, S.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whiteley, George (York, W. R.
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth
Wilson, Fred. W. (Norfolk, Mid
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wodehouse, Hn. Armine (Essex
Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Hudrsfld.
Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Broadhurst and Mr. Channing.

NEW BILLS.

TROUT FISHING ANNUAL CLOSE TIME (SCOTLAND).

Bill to provide an Annual Close Time for Trout Fishing in Scotland, ordered to be brought in by The Lord Advocate, Mr. Solicitor General for Scotland and Mr. Anstruther.

TROUT FISHING ANNUAL CLOSE TIME (SCOTLAND) BILL.

"To provide an Annual Close Time for Trout Fishing in Scotland," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 90.]

BURIAL GROUNDS (SCOTLAND).

Bill for the better regulation of Burial Grounds in Scotland, ordered to be brought in by The Lord Advocate, Mr. Solicitor General for Scotland, and Mr. Anstruther.

BURIAL GROUNDS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

"For the better regulation of Burial Grounds in Scotland," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed [Bill 91.]

AMENDMENT OF STANDING ORDER No. 21.

Standing Order No. 21 read.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I think I shall best consult the interests and the dignity of the House if in introducing the Amendment to the Standing Order which is in my name on the Paper of the House I abstain wholly from any irritating topics, and, as far as possible, from anything in the nature of unnecessary comment. The unhappy incidents of Tuesday night, or Wednesday morning, are so fresh in the recollection of the whole House that it would be superfluous were I to recall them to the House, or to dwell upon them at any length. It is sufficient for me to say, and it is the justification, after all, of this proposed change of the Standing Order, that there was at that time an offence committed which, if not a new offence, certainly was never committed to the extent and with the aggravation which attended it on that occasion, and that this offence under our Standing Orders as they now are meets with no summary punishment at all. The Members of this House who were named by you, Sir, and were suspended by the House, are at this moment suffering from the week's expulsion from this House, which is the penalty inflicted by the Standing Order. But the fact that after they had been so suspended from their service in the House they resisted, even to violence, your directions that they should leave the House is a crime against the order of this House which receives, and can receive under our system of summary jurisdiction in this House, no punishment at all.

The House is aware that up to a comparatively recent period the power of the House to deal with those of its Members who had offended seriously against its rules depended on what I may call the traditional powers of this House—the common law powers, if I may so call them, to borrow a phrase from the law of the land. Those common law powers, however, are rather cumbrous and elaborate in their application; and although they still exist in their full force, and although I think it is very undesirable in any way to interfere with them, the House has felt from time to time that it is absolutely necessary in the interests of order in this House that its powers of summary jurisdiction should be increased. There are two Standing Orders on which that power of summary jurisdiction depends. There is Standing Order No. 27, which deals with disorderly conduct. Under that Standing Order it is in the power of Mr. Speaker, or the Chairman of Committees, to order any Member who is guilty of disorderly conduct at once to leave the House, and the Member so ordered is suspended from the service of the House during that sitting. No division is taken; the judgment of the House is not called upon to confirm the judgment of Mr. Speaker, or the Chairman; and, as a consequence of that order, as the natural result of it, the sentence is in itself of the lightest possible description. The other Standing Order which deals with this matter is Standing Order No. 21, which is the Standing Order I propose to amend by the resolution standing on the Paper. Standing Order 21 differs from Standing Order 27 in this, that before any penalty is inflicted upon a disorderly Member he is named by the Speaker of the House, and the House has an opportunity of expressing its opinion as to whether he should or should not undergo the consequent penalty. The House being thus called on to back up the authority of the Chair, the penalties described in Standing Order 21 are of a more severe description than those in Standing Order 27. A Member may be suspended, is suspended, for the first offence in a session for a week, for a second offence for a fortnight, for a third or any subsequent offence for a month. It is that Standing Order which I propose to amend by adding a clause which shall provide a penalty—I do not say whether an adequate or an inadequate penalty—but a penalty which, as it seems to me, is the most proper we can fix upon.

This is a new penalty for the further offence of resisting Mr. Speaker's direction. This contingency that Mr. Speaker's direction should be resisted was not prominently before the House, happily, at the time when these Standing Orders in their present shape were framed. Our subsequent experience has been of a kind to bring that possibility very prominently before us, and I do not think, having regard to what occurred on Tuesday last, we can leave that offence wholly undealt with. It will be observed that unless some change such as I propose is passed in the rule, the existing penalties almost stand in the way—they are a certain obstacle in the way—of dealing adequately with the punishment of physical resistance to Mr. Speaker's order, because a Member having been suspended is relieved of any further attendance in the House for a week. You could not proceed next day to deal with these Gentlemen who are now suffering from their suspension, because they cannot be in their places. They are necessarily and by our order absent; and we think it would not be proper to deal in their absence with men who have no opportunity of alleging any extenuating circumstances. Therefore it is absolutely necessary that we should provide some immediate summary and, if possible, adequate and proper punishment for this additional offence. This does not pretend to be a general reform of those Standing Orders which deal with disorderly conduct, Those Standing Orders I think in some particulars deserve revision. I think the time of the House might be well devoted at some period less crowded with necessary businesss than the present to a re-survey of the Orders. But I make no such proposal at the present time. I merely come forward with an immediate method of dealing with an immediate evil. I do not ask the House to regard the Standing Order as it will be amended as a perfect embodiment of the expedients we should take for dealing with disorder. I only say it would be very greatly improved, and would not be wholly insufficient to deal with the evils which experience has shown us we have to fear.

I trust the House will unanimously agree to this. [Nationalist laughter.] I do not know whether I am to interpret that interruption as indicating that hon. Gentlemen, that any hon. Gentlemen in whatever part of the House we see them, think we ought to be quite helpless in the face of any member who commits a crime against the order of this House more aggravated in its character, I think, than any other crime of which we have knowledge. Disorderly conduct may take many forms; it may be more or less aggravated, but when disorderly conduct reaches the pitch of absolutely refusing to obey the direction of the Speaker to leave the House, everybody will feel that a discredit is cast upon our proceedings which it is impossible for us patiently to tolerate. Even those hon. Gentlemen who most sympathise with —or, let me put it, least condemn—what took place on Tuesday night, even they, I think, will feel that the Government and the House would show themselves unworthy of their traditions and unworthy of the duty which is cast upon them to keep the proceedings of this House orderly if they did not take the first occasion of providing a punishment—an adequate punishment—for an offence the danger and reality of which have been so painfully and so impressively brought to our notice by the unhappy events of two days ago. I beg to move this motion.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Standing Order No. 21 be amended by inserting, after line 27, the words, 'Provided also, That if any Member, or Members acting jointly, who have been suspended under this Order from the service of the House, shall refuse to obey the direction of the Speaker, the Speaker shall call the attention of the House to the fact that recourse to force is necessary in order to compel obedience to his direction, and the Member or Members who have refused to obey his direction shall thereupon, and without further Question put, be suspended from the service of the House during the remainder of the session.' "—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in Standing Order No. 21."

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): The right hon. Gentleman has acted wisely and has set a good example to all Members of the House in the calm, dispassionate, and moderate tone in which he has spoken of this very delicate question. We all speak with a perfect consciousness of the heated atmosphere which might easily arise, and which we have seen within but a few hours existing in this House; and I trust that, whatever view we may take of the proposal of His Majesty's Government, we shall endeavour to imitate the example which the right hon. Gentleman has set us. What strikes me principally in looking back on the deplorable events of the other night is this, that it is an instance of what may often happen to us in the course of our lives—that we are to a large extent oblivious of the degree to which many of the circumstances of our life and the conditions of society rest upon physical force. It is rather a humiliating fact when one comes to recognise it. Although we must be more or less aware of it, it is not the less odious a thing when it thrusts itself in its naked power upon us. Undoubtedly it is the case that, after all, the rules of this House, which usually work so quietly and equally, rest for their ultimate authority upon force. It seems to me that the other night we had that force displayed to us in a way which was very repulsive to the feelings of every one of us, and which certainly did not add to the dignity and the credit of the House of Commons. To that we were reduced by the grossly disorderly conduct of some Members. I am finding no fault whatever with the action of the authorities of the House, or of you, Sir, in authorising the introduction of the police; but I confess frankly, and I think I shall be approved in this by many Members of the House, if they will be frank in acknowledging their own feelings, that it is this introduction into the House of a body of police for this painful duty that has struck so heavy a blow at our dignity. What we have to do, it seems to me, in any rule that we pass is to make our rule such as to avoid the necessity of any such display of force in the future.

In criticising or passing some observations upon the particular proposal of the Government I would wish, in the first place, to make one thing clear—that a somewhat unusual course, as I think, has been followed in this matter. This is not a thing affecting party or political divisions. It affects the honour and dignity of the House; and I am much mistaken if it is not a fact that on all similar occasions in any Government, when the Leader of the House had a proposal of this sort to make, not in the interest of the Government, but in the interest of the dignity of the House, there was some consultation beforehand with those who sat opposite him, with those who did not share his views in all political matters, and who are not entitled to be consulted where it is a mere question of the mode of prosecuting Government business. This was not done on this occasion, and the first that my friends and I knew of this proposed rule was when the right hon. Gentleman read the terms of it at the Table yesterday.

In coming to the actual proposal I would point out some respects in which, at all events, the new rule might, I think, be amended. I think the House will follow me in this—that where a Member behaves in a disorderly fashion and is named, and is suspended from the Chair, in the usual and recognised manner, there are three separate stages, as it were, possible. There is, first of all, the possibility of a Member of his own accord, under the compulsion, of course, of the decision of the House, but under no other compulsion, removing himself from the House. A further stage is when the public officer appointed for the purpose—the Serjeant-at-Arms—goes up to a Member and calls upon him to obey the order of the House and remove himself from the precincts of the House. He subjects himself, no doubt, in one sense, to force, but it is only constructive force. The Serjeant-at-Arms may touch the Member lightly on the shoulder and formally ask him to leave. That is legal force, but not physical force. Then with a friendly sign, hon. Members have obeyed without a murmur. Their idea of their own independence of action was vindicated, but they obeyed under compulsion. Up to that point, I think, a member is within his right, as it were, if he choose to take that course. The other night we came to a further stage, to which we have not been accustomed. There was actual physical resistance to this legal compulsion; and there lies the danger to the order and decency of our proceedings against which we ought to guard. Now I think that there ought not to be any intervention of a new rule previous to the occurrence of that last stage; and I would suggest, not by way of moving an Amendment or suggesting even that I should move an Amendment to the rule, that after the first word "Speaker" in the third line there should be inserted —I have jotted the words down hurriedly—"if a member shall refuse to obey the direction of the Speaker and disregard the action of the Serjeant-at-Arms in enforcing that decision." The rule would then read—

> "If any Member, or Members acting jointly, who have been suspended under this Order from the service of the House, shall refuse to obey the direction of the Speaker, and disregard the action of the Serjeant-at-Arms in enforcing that decision, the Speaker shall call the attention of the House to the fact that recourse to force is necessary in order to compel obedience to his direction,"

and so on. That is the point at which we pass from a perfectly orderly proceeding to that which is necessarily disciplinary. I think it is there that the new provision, which would guard us against this sort of proceeding of which we complain, should come in. I think the adoption of the addition I suggest would make a great difference in the way in which the Rule would be regarded by a large number of Members of the House—if the new provision did not intervene too early, as it were, and if it was only after there was clearly a danger of actual physical force being required that we should proceed to the strong measure contemplated by this Order. I think that would sufficiently guard against a recurrence of such a scene as we all deplore, and at the same time it would leave Members free to adopt a certain form of protest, which they may consider a dignified form of protest, against the enforcement of the rule of the House.

Another point upon which I think the debate will probably disclose some difference of opinion is as to the extent of the punishment inflicted. The whole of a session is a very long time —[HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!]—when the occurrence takes place at an early period of the session; you practically disfranchise a constituency. Well, I name it as a point upon which I think difference of opinion will be found amongst men who are just as anxious as any hon. Member opposite to prevent such scandals as we saw the other night, and to vindicate the dignity and honour of the House. I leave it there. Of course there is not a word to be said, and I am not one to say a single syllable, by way of excuse for what happened; there can be no excuse, much less justification or palliation, in one sense. But there may be circumstances when there has been an unnecessary occasion given for a state of feeling leading and contributing to such conduct, and I venture, before I sit down, merely to point out, in a word or two, that when you have a Vote on Account, which you take by the closure in one night, for a sum large enough to carry over the Government till the end of the session, that is rather a strong order.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: On a point of order, Sir. The right hon. Gentleman is, I will not say criticising my conduct in moving the closure the other night, but saying it was a very strong order. [AN IRISH MEMBER: So it was.] I have no objection to that if I have the right of reply, but I do not think the charge ought to be made if I have not the right of reply.

*MR. SPEAKER: The right hon. Gentleman has the right of reply.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: On a specific charge?

*MR. SPEAKER: I was going to say that it is not relevant to go into the question of the history of the debate through which this disorder arose.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: All I argue for is this, that in framing and applying a rule of this sort we must not forget that there may even be a series of circumstances in the conduct of the business of the House which lead to a very great exasperation of feeling, and, therefore, make it not unnatural that hon. Members should sometimes take up a strong position in opposition to the ordinary course of business. I go no further than that. We must bear that in mind when we are laying down rules of this kind, which have the effect of preventing disorder, yet may do so in such a way as to appear to interfere with the privileges of Members and their constituents. That is all I wish to say in reference to what you, Sir, have said. I had no intention of going into the question of the circumstances which led to the incident before us. Of that incident I have nothing but condemnation to express, and my only object is to assist the Government, if they will allow us to do so, in framing such a rule as, without being unnecessarily severe, may have the effect of preventing the development amongst us of those scenes of violence which we all so deeply deplore.

MR. DILLON: On a point of order. I have some Amendments to move which I think will come in before the right hon. Gentleman's.

*MR. SPEAKER: Does the right hon. Gentleman move?

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: No, Sir.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): I wish to associate myself with both the right hon. Gentlemen who have spoken in the expression of a desire to discuss this matter calmly, and not to import any heat into the discussion. It is my intention to follow that line. I do not know whether I shall succeed or not. [A laugh.] Yes, because the House must in fairness recognise that I come to the consideration of this question from an entirely different standpoint to that of either one or the other of the right hon. Gentlemen. From the point of view of the calm consideration of this matter, I think the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the House would have been well advised if he had postponed for a few days bringing this matter before the House. However, I trust that none of what I may call that bad blood which arose the other night still exists, and that we may be able to discuss the subject with calmness.

This new rule is of course directed against the Irish Members; but I desire to say that in my opinion it is a matter which concerns the House of Commons and the Parliament of England and its British Members far more than it concerns the Irish Members. I have risen to protest against this rule, and, leaving aside just for a moment the peculiar Irish aspect of the question, I would venture to impress upon the House that in a free assembly, or what professes to be a free assembly, the enactment of penal provisions such as these is a hateful and degrading proceeding, which is not to be tolerated unless in the first place it is absolutely necessary, and, in the second place, I suggest he had the duty thrown upon him of seeing that the particular proposal that he made was the least oppressive and the least degrading he could devise to effect the object he had in view. Let me ask, is any change of this kind in the Standing Orders of this House necessary in order to prevent proceedings such as those which took place on Tuesday? The proposal of the right hon. Gentleman is justified in his mind, and in the mind of the majority of this House, by the proceedings of Tuesday night; and it will be in your recollection, Sir, as no doubt it will be in the recollection of the right hon. Gentleman, that yesterday afternoon, when I desired to discuss the whole circumstances connected with that event, I was unable to do so on a motion of privilege, but the Leader of this House said—

> "Now the hon. Gentleman desires that there should be an opportunity for discussing what has occurred; I suppose for considering also what means may be taken of preventing its recurrence."

And then he went on to say that he would make a statement and a motion which would give me that opportunity.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I think the hon. Gentleman is unintentionally misinterpreting what I said, or it may be that I expressed myself badly. The point raised was whether there would be an opportunity of discussing the case of the hon. Member for South Fermanagh and the case of another Gentleman which the hon. Member for East Mayo desired to raise yesterday. When Mr. Speaker explained that it could not be raised yesterday, I got up and said that, although it could not be raised yesterday, I understood from Mr. Speaker's ruling that it could be raised on some subsequent occasion. I then added that there would be an opportunity given for discussing how such scenes could be prevented. That is all I intended to convey.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: I do not wish to raise any conflict of recollection between the right hon. Gentleman and myself, but he will forgive me perhaps if I read the words in *The Times* report. The right hon. Gentleman is quite right in saying that I had raised the narrow point of these two Members; but my hon. friend the Member for East Mayo asked an additional question with reference to the discussion of the whole subject. Then the Leader of the House spoke as follows—

> "I understood from the question of the hon. Member for Waterford that what he desired was an opportunity of discussing the case of these two gentlemen who regard themselves as being aggrieved. That opportunity will be granted as soon as they have put themselves in communication with Mr. Speaker. Now the hon. Gentleman desires that there should be an opportunity for discussing what has occurred, I suppose, for considering what means may be taken for preventing its recurrence."

And he goes on—

> "I think it possible—although I can make no statement at the present time—I shall be able to make a statement within a few hours for an opportunity to be given to the House to discuss both these questions."

I have only alluded to that matter to explain the line I intend to take in the few remarks with which I shall trouble the House. Admittedly this proposed rule springs out of the proceedings of last Tuesday; and I feel that if the proceedings of last Tuesday are to be used as an argument justifying the passage of this proposal, I am entitled to consider what those proceedings were.

In the first place, I say to the right hon. Gentleman that, speaking generally, if the government of this House is in the future to be carried on by closure, by the suppression of adequate discussion, upon large Estimates, then not the most stringent rule which the wit of man can devise will save this House from a recurrence of scenes which no man in any part of the House desires to see interrupting the course of business here. For the proceedings of Tuesday last I say there is no precedent. The right hon. Gentleman may tell me that there have been other occasions in recent years when the discussion on Votes on Account for large sums of money was confined to one night. I say that within recent years there is not one single precedent of a Vote on Account of this magnitude being passed after one night's discussion; and especially there is no precedent of such a Vote, covering a multitude of subjects, including millions of money affecting Ireland and Scotland, being passed after only one topic of discussion had been raised. I saw in the *Daily News* to-day—["Oh, oh!"]—I give it for what it is worth. Hon. Gentlemen will perhaps allow me to remark that what I am going to quote from the *Daily News* is not an impersonal statement in a leading article, but a statement from the well-known House of Commons correspondent of that paper. In that he states that he was aware of his own personal knowledge that the Leaders of the Opposition were approached by the Government as to the Votes to be discussed on Tuesday, and were asked to select the first Votes; and the Opposition selected the Education Vote and the Board of Trade Vote; that the education discussion went on and that the closure was moved, cutting out the discussion on the Board of Trade as well as other things, without any word of explanation being given here to the Leaders of the Opposition with whom this understanding had been arrived at.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: There was no such understanding.

A MEMBER OF THE FRONT OPPOSITION BENCH: Oh yes, there was.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: I am not making this statement of my own authority. If it is wrong, of course it can be corrected. But what I do want to say on my own authority is that, having taken particular pains myself to make inquiries in every unofficial quarter of the House, I ascertained, I satisfied myself at any rate, that it was the universal impression that no attempt would be made to closure the Vote on Account. Under these circumstances very many Members left the building. I left and a number of my colleagues also—a number of Members from all sides of the House, under this impression, left. And then suddenly, after twelve o'clock, after only the one subject had been discussed, the closure was moved, and there occurred what I will say, with a full sense of my responsibility, was a natural ebullition of feeling on the part of a number of Members in this quarter of the House. They have been told since that they ought not to have objected to this procedure because all the items mentioned in the Vote on Account could be discussed afterwards in Committee of Supply. But those who make that statement forget that it was only the other day that an additional day for the discussion of Irish Estimates was refused by the right hon. Gentleman, and that we are confined to three days out of the whole session for the discussion of the multitude of questions arising on Irish Supply. It has been stated that what I have called the ebullition of feeling on the part of a number of my colleagues—as I venture to assert with great malice in some of the newspapers of the country—was a premeditated and deliberate action on their part. I desire to give that the most unqualified and absolute denial. I am sure that even those who are most bitterly opposed to the line I take in the House will believe me when I say that it wasa bsolutely unpremeditated, and that no one was more astonished than I was next morning when I opened my newspaper. I say it was a natural ebullition of feeling on the part of a number of Members of this House, and if it was an isolated instance of the closure I would not use that epithet. But this procedure on Tuesday night was part and parcel of a deliberate system of closure which has been put into operation this year. We are told that the discussions on Estimates must be scamped because certain financial arrangements must be completed by 31st of March, the House having met on 14th February. Is that an argument? Next year, perhaps, the House will not meet until 1st March, and then the same argument will be used—"You must have less discussion this year because there is less time." No, Sir, that is no answer, no argument.

The fact is there is and there has been on the part of the Government and of the majority of the House for a number of years a deliberate attempt put on foot to stifle the voice of independent criticism of the Estimates, and to reduce to an absolute nullity what is the first and greatest constitutional right of this House—namely, discussion of grievance before the voting of money. I assert deliberately that the whole moral responsibility for what occurred on Tuesday last rests on the Leader of the House. The Leader of the House of Commons has a post of great responsibility—not merely responsibility to the Government, whose business he is trying successfully to manage, but the higher and wider responsibility for the freedom and efficiency and the dignity of the House of Commons. And I say from the double point of view, both of the interests of the Government and the wider interests of this deliberative assembly, he is morally responsible for what occurred. I have been in this House now for a considerable number of years, and my experience has been that Government has never in the long run gained by what I may call Parliamentary sharp practice, by an attempt to use constant closure and by an attempt to deprive the voice of independent criticism of free utterance. Any such attempt that I have ever witnessed by either of the great English parties has recoiled upon itself, and this is a case in point. What has the Government gained by, without the slightest intimation or notice, closuring this seventeen millions of money? It was done, we are told, in the interests of time. What is the result? You have dislocated entirely your programme of business, and you have had to give up to another thorny and most dangerous subject time which could be usefully and quietly employed in the further discussion which was necessary. And from the point of view of the House of Commons as a great deliberative assembly, which boasts that it is the mother of Parliaments, which boasts that it is a free assembly, what is the result? I regard the action of the right hon. Gentleman from the point of view of the English Parliament as absolutely fatal. Does the saving of a few hours, even if you had succeeded in saving a few hours, to convenience the Government in the passage of Supply, compensate you for having the credit and renown of this assembly dragged in the mire as it was on Tuesday night, and, as I venture to assert, dragged in the mire as it is being dragged to-night, when you are proposing this monstrous resolution? Year by year you have been lowering and degrading the status of this Parliament; step by step you have been depriving it of its historic rights, privileges, and freedom. If I were to regard this solely as an Irish Nationalist, I might perhaps find in that fact some consolation, because, after all, having robbed Ireland of her Parliament and having compelled us to come across the water to your Parliament, it cannot but be some consolation to us to find that the price you have to pay is so high and bitter.

Is there no remedy possible for the state of things that has arisen except the enactment of these penal regulations? I will say respectfully to the House of Commons the remedy is to be found, not in these penal regulations, which, however you may devise them, may be broken, and, if this system goes on, no doubt in the future will be broken—the remedy lies in the more considerate government of the affairs of the House, and the abstention from tyrannical interference with the fair liberty of discussion. I believe that this proposal is unnecessary, and that you can deal with the situation that has arisen better by leaving the rules as they are and showing more consideration to private Members. Therefore, on the ground of want of necessity, I say the case for this resolution has broken down.

Apart from that, the resolution itself is, in my opinion, a most extravagant one. I remember well when, in 1880, Sir Stafford Northcote, then Chancellor of the Exchequer and Leader of the House, was proposing the original very moderate rule dealing with the suspension of private Members for a day or a week, he recognised the danger of leaving it in the power of any person, no matter how highly placed, by naming a number of men to suspend them from the exercise of their function as Members. He said on 28th May, 1880—

> "They recognised the importance of giving the Speaker and Chairman of Committees an opportunity of putting a stop to an offence on the spur of the moment, but they did not deem it right to give to any authority, however high, acting upon short notice, the power of suspending Members for a considerable time."

That was the original view expressed when the resolution was first introduced. I well remember coming down to the House in 1882, when the proposal was made to extend that Order and make it more oppressive—I well remember how Lord Randolph Churchill fought this proposal line by line. I remember well his phrase, which rang through the House when he denounced the proposal to suspend Members for one month, as a last resort, as "a ferocious and savage" proposal. Now it is proposed to leave in the hands of the Chairman of Committees or the Speaker—because that is what it comes to—the power of naming any number of men for disorderly conduct, and then following on that comes their suspension practically. [Cries of "No."] Yes; the interruption is puerile. The Speaker or the Chairman of Committees names the men and the House then votes for or against their suspension. That is quite true. But have we not had the experience this afternoon of how docile the House is in accepting the motion to expel men whose names are read from the Chair, even although some of those men have not been in the premises at all? I take the constitutional ground that you have no right to suspend the action of a Member of Parliament for a whole session. It is a penalty in very many cases not inflicted upon him. I know that a great number of the Members of this House do not regard their attendance here as any great pleasure or privilege. I know a number of Members whose attendance in this House means for them practically ruin in their professions, and who come here simply from a sense of public duty, and who would not suffer in the slightest degree if you suspended them for the remainder of the session. But you are inflicting a penalty on the constituency, and a penalty upon the constituency for an act to which the constituency cannot possibly be privy in any way. If you answer me by saying that the constituency ought not to elect men capable of such conduct, then I say—"Have the courage of your convictions and expel the men." Ah, Sir, the noble Lord the Member for Greenwich is the only man I have come across so far who is perfectly frank and honest in this matter. He has the courage of his convictions. He is going to move a proposal to the effect that instead of being suspended indefinitely we should be imprisoned indefinitely. I congratulate the noble Lord in being thorough in this matter, although I confess I am rather surprised that he did not put into his Amendment not imprisonment, but the block. From the purely Irish point of view I desire to say that the Irish Members regard this rule with indifference and contempt—with indifference because no penalties you can devise will have the effect of deterring us from doing what we believe to be our duty, and with contempt because the penalties inflicted in this way we regard not as a reproach, but as an honour. I say that if you go on, if the House of Commons goes on, upon the lines on which it has embarked in this matter, the logical result, and the only logical result, is the disfranchisement of Ireland. I am not sure that that would not be far better. I am sure it would be a far honester system than the present one. As long as you deprive Ireland of the substance of constitutional government and preserve the empty form by bringing us here to this Parliament, where we are always in a permanent minority as compared with the representatives of another country and another nation—so long, Mr. Speaker, as that is the case you will have in your midst a foreign element. There is something deeper in this matter than mere ebullitions of temper on the one side or mere new rules on the other. There is something deeper, something that goes right down to the bed-rock of this Irish question. The Irish Members, brought as they are to this House, are a foreign element in this House, and just like a foreign substance in the human body, when they are here——

Colonel SAUNDERSON (Armagh, N.): I beg the hon. Gentleman's pardon. I do not consider myself a foreign substance.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND: I hope I am more experienced and more sensible than to take any notice of the interruption. I say that, just as in the human body the presence of a foreign substance is a constant source of irritation and a constant source of danger, so the presence of a foreign element in this Parliament is the same, because the foreign element is made up of a body of men who are with you, but not of you; a body of men to whom the ancient glories and the great traditions of this House have no meaning; a body of men who regard this House and this Parliament simply as instruments for the oppression of their country; and in dealing with such an element I assert that no rules the wit of man can devise can possibly save your Parliament from being injured and degraded in the eyes of the world. Sir, that is the penalty that this country is paying to-day for the Union, and will continue to pay for it as long as it lasts. I say, therefore, that we treat the whole of these new rules with indifference and with contempt. I say that every such rule as you are proposing to-night is a weakening and degrading of your own Parliament, and the passing of every such rule as this amounts to the turning, if I may so say, of a searchlight upon the system of government in Ireland, which will expose the system to the knowledge and criticism of the nations of the world. It discloses to the world the fact that, with all your constitutional forms, you hold one portion of the so-called United Kingdom simply by brute force. I say to you, under these circumstances, speaking for myself and, I believe, for many, many Irish Members, go on with your new rule, suspend, expel, and imprison Members, we will not be in the smallest degree deterred. So long as we are forced to come to this House to endeavour, in the midst of a foreign majority, to transact our Irish business, we will use every form of this House, every right, every privilege, every power which membership of this House gives us—we will use these things just as it seems to us to be best for Ireland, quite regardless of the opinion and so-called dignity of British Members, and absolutely careless of the penalties you may devise for our punishment. In conclusion I would only say that my own strong feeling is this, that if in your effort to hold Ireland, according to your present system of government, by force, you degrade and paralyse, and in the end destroy, this famous Assembly, it will be but a just retribution upon you for the baseness and the cruelty with which you destroyed the free Parliament of the Irish people.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I think it is necessary for me to reply on the main question to the two speeches before we go into Amendments to this resolution. I shall deal very briefly with the two speeches to which we have just listened. The Leader of the Opposition made some complaint against the Government that they had not consulted hon. Gentlemen opposite. I can assure the right hon. Gentleman that nothing could give me greater pleasure than to ask his co-operation in matters concerning the common interests of the House; but what was done yesterday was done rapidly, and I am sorry there was no opportunity for consultation. The right hon. Gentleman has suggested an Amendment to the rule, which I think in substance would be an improvement, and if he will move it we will accept it, or if he prefers that it should be moved from this bench my hon. and learned friend or some other Member of the Government will move it, or something substantially identical with it, at a later stage of our debate.

I now turn to the speech of the hon. Gentleman, which was going to be pitched, as he told us, in a calm key of dispassionate discussion.

MR. J. REDMOND: I said I would do my best.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: It is true the hon. Gentleman said he would do his best. The hon. Gentleman is a great ornament of debate in this House, and I can hardly believe from what I know of him that a person of so great oratorical ability could so completely and so disastrously fail in carrying out the intentions with which he set out. If the hon. Gentleman intended to be conciliatory, that intention most certainly evaporated under the influence of his own oratory at a very early period of his remarks.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: I said calm, not conciliatory. It is not an occasion in my view for conciliation on my part.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: If the hon. Gentleman says he was not conciliatory, I can hardly describe his speech as "calm." The hon. Gentleman was good enough to say, among other calm observations, and amid the vociferous cheers of his friends, that the whole burden of responsibility for the unhappy incidents of Tuesday last rests upon my unhappy head. The hon. Member has described me as attempting to play the tyrannical master to the House, as unduly curtailing debate, and as consequently affording, if not a justification, at all events some excuse for the strange and unhappy proceedings with which Tuesday night's discussion terminated.

Let me remind the House, by giving a bare statement of facts, what the situation is with regard to Supply. The hon. Gentleman said the excuse the Government put forward for moving the closure at twelve o'clock was that it was necessary to get Supply by 31st March. Sir, that is not the main reason why I moved the closure on Tuesday night, nor was that proceeding of so strange and unprecedented a character as the hon. Gentleman appears to suppose. The hon. Gentleman talked as if we were voting seventeen millions for the services of the year in a manner which would abstract the subjects to which the money was to be devoted from any further discussion by the House. The hon. Gentleman knows that that does not represent the facts. The old practice of the House was that a Vote on Account, as it was merely in anticipation of the Estimates, was not an occasion on which subjects could with advantage be raised. For reasons which I need not go into, discussions in Supply became longer and longer, more and more inconvenient to the Government of the day, and more and more were carried on until late in August, under what were admittedly impossible and disastrous conditions. Now, the result was that two or three Votes on Account were at different times put forward, and the House, being deprived of legitimate opportunities for discussion, naturally took advantage of the Votes on Account to raise matters of importance. All that was subsequently altered, with the approval of the House, and new Supply rules were introduced allowing a maximum of twenty-three days for Supply, distributed evenly over the session, so as to give Gentlemen on both sides full opportunity for discussion of the actions of the Government. A division on a Vote on Account on the first night is an almost necessary corollary of that rule, because as long as the Vote on Account is included in the twenty-three days, if it goes over two days it takes away one day from the regular discussion of the Estimates. To the Government that matters nothing, as the total amount of time taken for the Estimates cannot exceed twenty-three days. Feeling that that was so, I did, with the approval of the House, move the closure on the first night of the debate, not merely in 1901, but in 1900, 1899, 1898, and in 1897; and I venture to say that every man who occupies my position, so long as the Supply rules continue, will feel himself driven, in the general interest, to do the same, so that miscellaneous and vague discussions on Votes on Account shall be ended as soon as possible, thus allowing as much as possible of the twenty-three days for genuine discussion on the items in the various Estimates laid before the House. That is a simple, straightforward statement of the motives which animated me, acting with my colleagues, not only this year, but last year and the years before, as I have stated. I have never suggested in any of the discussions on the Supply rules that the Vote on Account should take more than one day; on the contrary I have always said that in order to carry on the business of the House decently and in order it was entirely inexpedient that we should give more than a day to that preliminary stage.

The hon. Gentleman accuses me of trying to burke discussion. I do not want to be egotistical, but I say that this Government has done more to make discussion in Supply a reality than any previous Government has done, and the freedom of debate of which the hon. Gentleman complains has never been so largely enjoyed in Supply as during the last Parliament, and as I hope it will be during the remaining sessions of the present Parliament. The hon. Gentleman says that he and his colleagues come to this House as citizens of an oppressed nationality, and that when they do come here they are not allowed a fair share of debate. Has the hon. Gentleman sat here through all the debates conducted by his friends in the course of the present session? Does he know that this oppressed nationality has taken up one-fourth of the whole time which has been occupied in debate during the present session? The session is not old, it is still young, but the hon. Gentleman and his friends had two Amendments on the Address, and they occupied the greater part of the time on every other Amendment to the Address. Since Supply was brought in they have made endless speeches. If I remember rightly, they have made no less than eighty-four speeches, and forty-three of these were made in Committee of Supply. This is the gagged nation! These are the Gentlemen who are not allowed to open their lips by a tyrannical Minister! The House has listened with weary patience to attacks made, not upon politicians, for they are indifferent to those things, but upon the honour and courage of our troops and their conduct in the field. Can anybody say, even the most fanatical partisan, that this House has not proved itself, in this session as in all previous sessions, tolerant to views, however opposed to them and however expressed, so long as they are believed to represent opinions honestly held by even the smallest section of the Opposition?

The hon. Gentleman did not disguise from us towards the end of his speech, when the calmness with which he began had completely disappeared, that he regarded with pleasure, or without displeasure, the fact that his countrymen had inflicted by their conduct a great injury upon the honour and the tradition of this House. He told us that he and his friends were foreigners in a strange land, and that, like any other foreign body introduced into an organism, it produced inflammation, disease, and, as he almost hinted, ultimately death. I will venture to urge upon the House that these concluding words of the hon. Gentleman are ample justification of the rule which he says he is going to treat with contempt. He does not wish that the traditions and the honour of this House should be maintained. Sir, I confess that there is no Member of this House from whom I should have heard those sentiments with greater pain. The hon. Gentleman is endowed above his fellows, above, I had almost said, any man in this House, with the talents which would enable him to be, what so many of his countrymen have been in the past, a distinguished ornament and Member of the greatest free assembly in the world. If he elects deliberately, and for some unknown motive, to use those talents or encourage others to use their talents in a manner destructive of the honour and dignity of this House, I can only say that the hon, Gentleman is not only doing a great disservice to the Empire of which he is a citizen, and of which, I imagine, he still wishes to be a citizen—he is not only doing a great disservice to that Empire, but he is doing the greatest of all disservices to that portion of the Empire in which he professes to be particularly interested. He tells us that scenes like that on Tuesday night are the penalty we pay for refusing Home Rule to Ireland—a scarcely veiled threat—and are at intervals to be used, if we permit them to be used, to force us, as by a process of torture, to dismember the Empire which we are guarding. Sir, the hon. Gentleman forgets that under the Home Rule scheme which he accepts the blessing of freedom from the presence of Irish Members, as he would describe it, is not to be vouchsafed. The foreign body is still to be in the organism.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: I assure the right hon. Gentleman that we have no such desire. When that was proposed, it was proposed by an English party, and was accepted by us, because we thought it was not worth while—— [Cries of "Order."] My point is, we do not want to be here.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I am not going into a discussion on Home Rule. I did not start it; I do not wish to continue it. But I hope hon. Gentlemen above the gangway, if they still take any interest in that question, will take note of the view expressed by the hon. Gentleman of the form in which alone Home Rule would be agreeable to the Irish nation. Sir, I have said sufficient, I think, to defend us who sit on this bench, on whom the responsibility of guiding the House finally rests, to absolve us from the charge so recklessly levelled against us of having unduly curtailed the liberty of Members. I hope I have answered that fully. And as for the main subject of our discussion to-night, I venture to say that if any stranger had come into the gallery for the first time, not knowing what occurred on Tuesday except by report, after hearing the hon. Gentleman's speech, he would have said that that speech, especially its closing portion, was the amplest justification for the measure we are proposing from this side of the House.

*MR. JOHN ELLIS (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe): The right hon. Gentleman has wandered over a very wide field in his speech, and I have no intention of following him, but perhaps I may be allowed to say a few words in this debate upon the proposal immediately before the House, namely, the Amendment to the Standing Order No. 21. I share the pain and humiliation that must have been felt by every Member of the House when I read the record of those proceedings on Tuesday evening. I think the introduction of the physical element on that occasion was a degradation to this House of Commons—I was about to say it was a crime, but it most certainly was a blunder. We who recollect the late Mr. Parnell and the discipline that he maintained in the Irish ranks, discipline without which no party in this House can be effective—we who remember Mr. Parnell recollect that when he found occasion to protest against the proceedings of this House, even to the extent of refusing to obey the orders of the Speaker or Chairman, he did so in a dignified manner. In cases of this kind the late Mr. Parnell was content to retire after a tap on the shoulder from the Serjeant-at-Arms. I venture to say that hon. Members from Ireland would have been better advised if they had followed that example. I have no sympathy whatever—on the contrary, I condemn it root and branch—with anything in this House that requires the introduction of the police within this Chamber. I hope I have made myself clear in that matter.

That, however, does not exhaust the question. I notice that, as the discussion has gone on, other circumstances of that night have been dealt with, although there was an attempt earlier to narrow the discussion. Before a Vote on Account of £17,000,000, carrying the Government on through many months, is put from the Chair such an arrangement ought to have been made as would have enabled the different items to be discussed, but in this case the whole evening was consumed by the interesting discussion on education. Then the Leader of the House came in and moved the closure on that £17,000,000 at the close of the evening, and I say without fear of contradiction that such action is reducing our proceedings to a perfect farce. The right hon. Gentleman has said something about the history of Votes on Account; but, if he will allow me to say so, I do not think he was quite accurate in that history, and no doubt he is relying for the statement upon information supplied to him by some other person. Everyone knows that a Vote on Account is dealt with in an exceptional manner, and it ought not to be included in the twenty-three days allotted to Supply. The proceedings of the other evening are sufficient to illustrate that point. I for one complain that the scene of the other night was led up to, and was the consequence of the manner in which the business was conducted. There certainly was a want of method with regard to the arrangement of the business of the House. The right hon. Gentleman himself had to apologise because he had not taken the usual courteous step of consulting the Leader of the Opposition. Was there ever such a state of things before? The amendment of our Standing Orders is a most serious thing, and when this omission on the part of the right hon. Gentleman was referred to he gets up in an airy way and says that time did not permit him to do so. There was ample time for the Leader of the House during the whole of yesterday to consult the Leader of the Opposition. That argument will not stand a moment's examination.

All our Standing Orders have been drawn up with very great care, and this particular Standing Order No. 21 was the subject of a great deal of discussion in the year 1882, and it was protested against at the time by a man who knew this House better than most Members who have ever sat in it—I allude to the late Lord Randolph Churchill. He protested against it in the strongest manner, and I think it is absurd for the right hon. Gentleman to come down here to-night and move this addition to the Standing Order in the way he has done. As it stands on the Paper the Amendment is drawn in the most slovenly fashion. The Leader of the Opposition has pointed out already one defect in it, and his suggestion has been accepted. When you have previously amended these rules the Amendment has always been made on the motion of a Committee. The Chancellor of the Exchequer was chairman in the year 1886 of a very important Committee, which examined into the rules of our procedure, and he knows very well how much every recommendation of that Committee was discussed before arrived at. I should not think for a moment of voting for the Amendment now on the Paper.

I pass from this point, and I say boldly and unhesitatingly that what you have to rely upon for the preservation of dignity and order in the proceedings of this great assembly are the personal qualifications and the character of those who are elected to the position of Chairman and Speaker and the general spirit and sense of the House. No Standing Orders will bind men who are determined to disobey them. Moral force is the only force that is effective in this case. The right hon. Gentleman pointed out at the beginning of the session that it is on the spirit that pervades the House that you must rely for preserving the efficiency and the dignity of its proceedings. I can find no word strong enough to express my alarm and disapproval of the rashness of this proceeding on the part of the right hon. Gentleman, and, as the Leader of the Opposition has pointed out, there is great danger in the words as they stand on the Paper. For my own part, as a Member of this House who yields to no man in the desire to maintain the dignity of this great place as an instrument of public good, I do not feel myself at liberty to vote for the proposal put forward in its present form.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Sir ROBERT FINLAY, Inverness Burghs): I rise to propose an Amendment to the motion.

MR. DILLON: On a point of order. I have an Amendment on the first line which is of very great importance, and

I may be shut out from moving it if the Attorney General moves his Amendment now.

*MR. SPEAKER: If the hon. Member is prepared to move his Amendment now, I have no doubt the Attorney General will give way.

MR. BROADHURST (Leicester): I have another point of order. I am sure that there is a very general feeling that the general discussion on the main question should go on and a vote be taken upon it. I want to know, if the Attorney General moves his Amendment now, will we be precluded from continuing the general debate?

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member will not be precluded from entering into the general question now. There is no Amendment before the House.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT (Monmouthshire, W.): May I ask, on a point of order, whether, if hon. Members desire to continue the general discussion, they will be shut out from so doing by the Attorney General moving an Amendment at this stage?

*MR. SPEAKER: If there is a desire to continue the general discussion, it would be more convenient that it should take place before an Amendment is moved. I had no information of any such general desire.

*MR. BLAKE (Longford, S.): I wish to ask whether it is not in accordance with our usual practice and custom that, when a number of Members desire to move Amendments on different parts of the main motion, the proceeding should be so adjusted as that these Members should not be deprived of the opportunity of presenting their Amendments? Some of us feel very strongly in regard to this question.

*MR. SPEAKER: The proper and more convenient course would be if the Amendments were laid on the Table. There is no Amendment on the Table. I have every wish to accommodate hon. Members.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: If there is a general desire that my Amendment should come further on in the discussion, I am prepared to give way.

*SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT (Sheffield, Ecclesall): I wish to say a few words on the main question, and they shall be brief. I think, however, that the great majority of the House is agreed that if any possible means could be adopted to prevent a repetition of the deplorable scenes of Tuesday night they should be taken. Although I would be glad to see the resolution amended in certain respects, I certainly should support it in the main. The great majority of the House is so agreed on the point of general regret for the scenes that have occurred that it is hardly necessary for me to dwell upon them. My purpose in rising, mainly, is to express my deep regret that the closure was moved the other night. I do not think the moving and the carrying of the closure were any justification for what happened, but I want to say a very few words with regard to the defence made by the First Lord of the Treasury for moving the closure on a Vote of Account. I do not believe that there is any precedent for closuring a large Vote on Account when only one single item on that Vote had been discussed. At all events, I do not recollect such a closure before. My memory may be in error. Possibly the only precedent for it was during the discussion on the Jameson Raid, which of course was a matter of great interest, and caused much excitement in the House. But even on that occasion there was a two nights debate on the Vote on Account. What was the defence of the First Lord of the Treasury? He said that every single item of the Votes would be open to discussion on a future occasion. If that happened in practice it would be a very good defence, but no one knows better than the right hon. Gentleman that it never does happen. This is not a charge which I bring against the present Ministry alone. Over and over again it has been proved that discussion in Supply of the most important subjects has been constantly burked. Therefore that is a strong argument against closuring the Vote on Account. This is one of the few occasions on which we can discuss everything. [Mr. BALFOUR was understood to dissent.] Well, this is one of the very few opportunities of discussing most important questions. What was the course of procedure that night? A special subject was brought forward, a very important subject, no doubt; an Amendment was moved, and the result was that no other subject could be discussed; and hon. Members were encouraged to speak in order to keep the debate going. [HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!] I make this general statement, which I am quite able to prove. I simply say that this was an occasion on which above all others the closure ought not to be have been applied. There were many subjects of great importance that ought to have been discussed. I do say that the rights of private Members have been so grossly infringed upon within the last few years, and the discussion of great public questions has been so frequently burked, that it is time independent Members made a protest. The idea that by closuring the debate on the Vote on Account you thereby ensure discussion of most important subjects in Supply is a purely fantastic idea of the Leader of the House. I blame the Leaders of the Opposition very much on this point; for of recent years Members on the Front Opposition Bench have not fulfilled their duty in insisting that important subjects should be discussed. They might have done a good deal to support independent Members in this respect. I think this is an occasion on which, in view of the turn which the debate has taken, independent Members are justified in making protest. I venture to enter that protest, because I feel very strongly the taking away from the House as a whole what I regard as one of its greatest privileges—namely, the insistence on the discussion of grievances before granting Supply.

MR. BROADHURST: I think if anything could justify the complaint which has been made to-night it has been the heated passion displayed in the course of the debate by the Leader of the House. He made a most passionate appeal to his followers to support this motion, by a reference to subjects which had not been mentioned in the debate—I mean, the speeches of hon. Gentlemen from Ireland pertaining to Army affairs in South Africa. We have evidence sufficient to-night to show us that the decision to move this Amendment on Stand Order No. 21 was taken on the h i tide of excitement of the Governm e in regard to the proceedings the other night. The right hon. Gentleman had to admit to the Leader of the Opposition that he had not consulted him because he had not time. Why, to come down to the House and move an Amendment to the Standing Orders which will disfranchise constituencies for six months at a time, is a proceeding which ought not to have been taken in heat and hurry, and without proper and due consideration. Now, I was here the whole of the night on Tuesday, and of course I never took part in supporting any Member of this House in disobeying the Orders of the House. But had you, Mr. Speaker, been here during the whole of that evening, had you been a witness to the accumulating indignation of the House between ten and twelve o'clock, you would not have been so surprised that something irregular should arise before the House closed. Those of us who were here at the time were discussing a subject of the utmost importance to the interests of our country, the question of education; and many of us had no opportunity of taking part in the debate because of the short time at our disposal. Then, the only member of the Government who was present for the greater part of the night was the Vice-President of the Council, who was left without the patronage and sympathy and support which he might have received from other members of the Cabinet during the debate. That was the condition of things that led up to the excitement which culminated in the unfortunate and regrettable incident on the benches below the gangway.

The Leader of the House has, with all the marvellous skill of which he is so great a master, tried in the two or three speeches he has made to-night to locate this as a question between the Members for Ireland and his own party. No, Sir, this is a House of Commons question. I would like, if the Leader of the House will permit me, to take the liberty to remind him that there are still other parties in the House than that which owns allegiance to his sway and great power. There are still a few Liberals left, and we as well as Irishmen are concerned for the liberty of the House and the freedom of action of its Members. I am here to-night to say that we have known occasions when disobedience to the orders of the House by an hon. Member has borne great fruit, and produced great results for the welfare of a large section of the community. I remember when the late Mr. Plimsoll, then Member for Derby, came down to the House and gave an exhibition of his earnestness almost amounting to a threat of violence to the Leader of the House. And the immediate result was the passing of the Shipping Act of 1876, which formed the basis of many Acts which followed, and which have saved the lives of thousands of British seamen.

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is going beyond the limits of discussion on the point before the House.

MR. BROADHURST: Probably I am, and I am not surprised. I took an active part in the proceedings in those days. Although not at the time a Member, I was within the precincts of the House and saw the whole proceedings, and I know, from my subsequent official connection with the work, what was the great blessing that resulted from it. I say that it is our duty to resist any inroads on the liberties of the House, or upon the freedom of Members, to take such action as they may think proper before granting Supply to the Government. I rather think that the disposition so prevalent in a distant part of our Empire is travelling with great rapidity towards our own country. I have heard it rumoured that some hon. Members desire to strengthen this sentence of exclusion which the Leader of the House has proposed by imposing a sentence of penal servitude, or something of the kind, for disobedience to the rules of the House. What we want is more tact in the general control of the business of the House. In the great Parliament of 1880, with which the First Lord of the Treasury is so intimately acquainted, and of which I am sure he has the most lively recollection, many scenes and incidents took place. I admired the skill with which he and his friends succeeded on those occasions in drawing attention to themselves and to the subjects which, for the time, they espoused. Sir, notwithstanding the high state of obstruction in that Parliament, of which the right hon. Gentleman was one of the leaders, some of the greatest measures of our time were passed; and it is only a want of skill in the management of business on the part of the Front Government Bench that has produced that state of things which led to the revolt on Tuesday night. I hope sincerely that we shall have an opportunity of voting upon the main question before Amendments are introduced on it. I am sure we shall take a large number of Members into the Division Lobby against tampering with our liberties, and I hope the motion will be defeated. When the passions of the moment have cooled down, let the Leader of the House take counsel with the Leader of the Opposition, and then take the House into his confidence. We are all concerned for the honour and dignity of Parliament, and if there is any good ground for mending or modifying the present rules of procedure let it be done with due consideration, and with the advantage of the experience of men in all parts of the House. In that way we might arrive at a discussion of the subject with something like reason, and with some hope of doing something effective for the better control of the Members of this House. I do think that the Leader of the House must admit that he has been most ill-advised in taking this hasty step. He himself has had to admit already that he was so hasty that he had not time to think of the Opposition. He had got it into his mind that there was only one side in the House besides the Irish Members; but he has learned to-night that there are other parties in the House, and that he has shown a want of consideration of the due proportion of things. As I have said, I hope we shall have an opportunity of voting against the main question, and that we shall have a majority against the motion. We might then refer the matter to a Committee representing the whole of the parties in the House. We should not then run a further risk of impairing the authority, the dignity, the honour, and what respect is left to the House of Commons after ten years mismanagement by the Tory party. There should be no attempt to patch up for party purposes and party conveniences the ancient rules and customs of this great House of Parliament, the mother, as it has been called, of the free institutions of the world. Then we should allow time to consider the proposed changes in moments of coolness, and not rush helter-skelter at express speed through the destruction of our liberty such as is proposed by the Leader of the House.

Mr. MARKHAM (Nottinghamshire, Mansfield): It is my intention to vote against the resolution of the Government, not for the reason that it goes too far, but that it does not go far enough. The proposed Amendment to the Standing Order will not prevent a recurrence of the disgraceful scenes of Wednesday morning. In my opinion, when any Member defies the authority of the Chair after being called upon to leave the Chamber, the sitting of the House should be suspended for a quarter of an hour. The galleries—the strangers', the ladies', and the reporters'—should be cleared, and the contumacious Members or Member should be forcibly removed in the presence only of the police. I think that in that case there could be no advertisement for any Member wishing to be turned out of the House, and the Members would walk out quietly. I think that to suspend to the end of the session, which may be only a week or a fortnight, a Member who has been guilty of conduct that would disgrace any parish council in Great Britain, does not cover the case. The resolution does not go far enough, and will prove a mere farce. Hon. Members from Ireland have definitely stated that it is their intention to repeat these scenes and these tactics of Wednesday morning. (Cries of "No" from the Irish benches.) I do not wish to advertise the paper, but hon. Members will no doubt know to which one I refer. In that paper several Members of the Irish party who were removed from the House on Wednesday morning had been interviewed, and they stated that they proposed to go on again with these disgraceful proceedings. The hon. Member for Waterford stated that the most stringent rules which the wit of man could devise will not prevent a repetition of these scenes. Something must be done if we wish to maintain the dignity of a Parliament ruling four hundred millions of human beings under just and equitable laws. (Cries of "No" from Irish benches.) If you have any laws in Ireland which are not just, there is a desire on every side of the House to remove them. But when you come here and say that you are a foreign element, and intend to bring disgrace on everything connected with Parliament, you must remember that when you do so you insult not only Parliament, but the Empire.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): Off with our heads!

Mr. MARKHAM: The first Lord of the Treasury has referred to the attacks made by hon. Members sitting on the Irish benches on the soldiers of the Empire. Let me say to these hon. Members that in behaving as they have done they are damaging the interests they wish to serve. In the course they have taken these Irish Members are the worst enemies of Ireland. If they would only come here and present their case to the House with moderation, I am certain the House wishes to do what is right. I trust my fellow countrymen will never be coerced into doing what is wrong.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND: Neither will we.

Mr. MARKHAM: While hon. Members choose to defy the authority of the Chair, and attempt to make this House nothing more nor less than a pot-house, not only lowering Parliament, but the nation at large, I say that the time has come when a protest should be made against it. Members should have the courage of their convictions, and never mind whether Ireland be disfranchised or not. If Ireland chooses to send representatives to this House who refuse to obey the laws and rules of order, then let Ireland be unrepresented. There is no injustice done to them by that, if the decencies of law and order are not observed in this House by hon. Members from Ireland. If they will not conform to them, then let them remain away. No injustice whatever would be done to Ireland, and the course I suggest would be merely following the dictates of common sense.

Attention called to the fact that forty Members were not present. House counted, and forty Members being found present—

*MR. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.): The House of Commons has in its long and splendid history witnessed many strange sights. It has seen its privileges invaded by a monarch, its doors have been barred and locked, and access refused to Members by a soldier, and I have myself seen a Member duly elected to this House dragged across the lobbies and the corridor, and ejected from the building, although the House was glad enough and willing enough to admit afterwards that they were wholly wrong. I have seen a free fight on the floor of this Assembly, originated not by Irish Members, but by English Members; but I think that a sadder or more terrible sight was never witnessed in this or any other legislative Assembly in Europe than the scene of Tuesday last. I am one of those Irish representatives who deeply deplore what took place, and who sincerely regret the dishonour done to this House and the injury that I believe has been done to Ireland by it. Feeling that, I shall vote for any reasonable resolution that will make a recurrence of such scenes impossible in the future, and that will punish any offender who violates to that extent the order and rules of this House. I desire, having said so much, to state two things. I am with those who have said to-night that there is some responsibility for this trouble elsewhere than on the Irish benches.

Let me say that I voted on Tuesday night for the closure. I say that frankly, but I did not vote for the closure because I thought it ought to have been applied. I voted for it simply because of the exigencies of Supply, and because of the difficulty of the position in which His Majesty's Government was placed as to time. That was the real reason that made me vote for the closure, and if I had had the opportunity I should have voted for the granting of this £17,000,000 on Account. But I do think that the First Lord of the Treasury has gone a little out of his way to vindicate the closure on the Vote on Account after one day's discussion. I remember that in the year 1892 I was engaged in discussing the Chief Secretary for Ireland's salary, and he was a Home Rule Chief Secretary. I was engaged discussing it on a Vote on Account, and when the discussion had lasted one day the Vote was closured, and the present First Lord of the Treasury supported me in resisting the closure. It is all the same whatever Government is in power, for they will use the rules upon the Order Book to secure their own purposes, and the House of Commons may make up its mind that these weapons now used against Irishmen may be used against Englishmen as well. As I stated before, my objection to the closure was on account of the exigencies of Irish Supply. I made a strong appeal to the First Lord of the Treasury for Irish Supply, that is, to give us four days instead of three. That appeal of mine was refused, and on that occasion I voted against the First Lord of the Treasury, and I was not the only Ulster Member on this side who voted against him on that occasion. It was refused, and the Vote on Account was put the other night. I am bound to say that it was a startling proposal to vote £17,000,000, £2,000,000 of which were for Irish services, without a word having been said upon anything in the Vote but an English subject. There are a great many new Members in this House, and the Irish party is to a large extent made up of new Members. I was a close observer of what took place the other night, and on the question of the closure being put an Irish hon. Member desired to speak upon the motion, but he was pulled down to his seat by those sitting near him. What I want to point out is, that there are a great many hon. Members in the Irish party who are new to the House, and who are not aware of the strictness of the closure rule, and who in ignorance of that fact took opposition to that rule, which, had their leaders been present, they would not have taken.

I heard the speech of the hon. Member who spoke last with great pain. What is the use of any English Member coming down to the House of Commons and lecturing Irishmen? Of course, I know that it was a new Member who did it, for no man who had been in this House for years would have ever have dreamt of doing it. It is one thing to address sound arguments to the House, but quite another thing to lecture Irish Members and tell them that England would do this and that. Irish Members do not care a row of pins for that sort of argument, which, instead of doing good, does harm. What I rose principally to state to-night is this. This House of Commons must never forget one important fact—that when they are dealing with Ireland and with the representatives from Ireland who sit on the opposite side of the House they are dealing with a country and with men who pay an unwilling allegiance to it. I say that the statesman who leaves that out of sight, the politician in this House who refuses to recognise it, misses the whole fact of the situation. We are governing in Ireland a people without the consent of the overwhelming majority of those people. In all our dealings with Ireland, and in all our dealings with hon. Members opposite representing Ireland, I say that we ought never to lose sight of this fact, and in everything we do we ought to try to conciliate and to meet the arguments and the desires of those representatives, so far as they can be met within the principles professed by the Government on this side of the House. We ought to conciliate and try to meet these men as far as it is possible to do it. Conciliation will go a long way where coercion will break down utterly. My point is that it is no use for English Members sitting on these benches to lecture Irishmen, and they had better recognise at once that the Irish Members in this House are fighting England in the only way in which they can fight her. They have their constituents at their back, and the sterner the fight the better the constituents will like it. It is a lamentable thing, a hundred years after the Legislative Union, that this spirit, this reckless spirit, should still prevail. Disorder cannot be tolerated; disobedience to the Speaker and the rules of the House must be put down with a stern hand; and I shall vote to-night to do it; but the disorder is far deeper seated than Members on this side of the House appear to think, and it will require far different treatment than the imprisonment suggested by the noble Lord to remove it. The treatment will have to be far different. The House, recognising the fact that these men are unwilling guests there, that England destroyed their own Parliament, must first of all try to conciliate them, and meet their wishes so far as they can be fairly and honourably met consistently with the principles the Government were placed in power to support.

MR. DILLON: On behalf of the Nationalist Members I think I will be expressing their feelings when I thank the hon. Gentleman for the remarkable speech to which we have just listened. He is one who has been a great opponent of ours in the past, and he is still a champion of the Union, and I warn the members of that party in this House that if they are wise they will listen to the voice of an Irish Unionist who knows something about the subject. For my part, I do not believe in the possibility of maintaining the Union, but I believe if it had a chance it would be on the lines of the speech of the hon. Member—in making an attempt to prove to the Irish people that we are wrong in our contention. For if the people of Ireland come to believe that their representatives here will not get a fair hearing, and are subjected to treatment that would not be meted out and a spirit displayed to them which is not displayed to any other section in the House, then you will increase the disaffection in Ireland, and convince the Irish people that they have been quite right all along, and have no reason to look here for justice. I listened to the speech on this side of the House to which the hon. Gentleman alluded in his speech; that was the speech of a Liberal Imperialist, and I gladly accept him as an example of that abominable creed. The Tories opposite are Liberals compared to him, and in the course of this debate, so far, I have heard nothing from Members opposite of insult or of a desire to increase the severity of this "scandalous and ferocious rule"—to adapt the words of Lord Randolph Churchill. It has been reserved for a Liberal Imperialist to turn round and talk to Irish Members in the fashion that we used to hear in '80 and '81. There are some of us who remember those days, in which we were patriots. Time vindicated our efforts, and the measures we were then howled at for advocating have been placed upon the

Statute Book, and the spirit which existed in those days has died completely out, and I for one, who passed through them, know this, that there are men who are now ashamed of the part they took in them. In the opinion of the hon. Member to whom I allude, the wording of the motion is much too mild. I have a great deal more experience than he, and when he comes to my age he will have learnt that the tone and spirit which he displayed is precisely the tone and spirit which would make the maintenance of order and decency in any assembly in the world absolutely impossible. Nobody knows, Sir, better than yourself that without some good feeling, without some sense of respect for every Member, without that sense which makes every man feel in his own person the humiliation of a colleague, no rules ever devised in any assembly in the world would preserve decency or order. I maintain—and I have been twenty years in the House, and I have never taken part in such a scene as that which took place on Tuesday night last—that if the Government think that by tightening the bond more and more every day, by cutting off year after year, as they have done for the last five years, what I might call safety valves for the expression of opinion, and trusting to and relying alone upon coercive legislation—if they think they will improve the order and decency and respect of this House, they are preparing for themselves a most painful disappointment. There was a time, comparatively recently, when this assembly contrasted very favourably for the order and decency of its debates with any legislature in the world. That day has gone by. The scene of Tuesday night could not be paralleled in the French Chamber, nor in the Reichstag at Berlin, and if the spirit displayed in the ludicrous and absurd Amendment of Lord Hugh Cecil was to govern the proceedings of the House the time would soon come when the British House of Commons would occupy the same position in the opinion of Europe as the Austrian Reichsrath does to-day. I do not desire to see that. I believe, and always have believed, and I have governed my conduct for twenty years in that belief, that within the rules of order in this House the power of an organised Irish Party, supported by our people at home, is sufficient to win the rights of Ireland, and, believing that, I do not want to have a recurrence of these disgraceful scenes in which we suffer; but if you rely on coercion, if you drive any large section of the House into a repetition of Tuesday night's scenes, we will not be the greatest sufferers.

I would ask hon. Members in all seriousness when they are addressing themselves to the consideration of this question, which seems to have been put before the House by the First Lord of the Treasury with singular callousness and want of thought, whether this rule is not important in its wording? I think it is an odious thing to hear the Leader of the House talk about the "punishment" of Members. The House, of course, must insist on maintaining its rules of order, and whatever measures are necessary to enforce the authority of the Chair and the order of debate the House is entitled to take, but you must always remember that it is your colleague who is subject to disciplinary action, and having purged his conduct he becomes your colleague again, and you must not forget that men who are guilty of breaches of order are not criminals, and we are bound to assume that they are incited, whether right or wrong, by some conviction of public duty, and so long as they are going to be your colleagues in future, in going upon this theory of punishment you are on the wrong road, which will lead only to disaster. It should not be a question of punishment; it should be merely a question of such discipline as may be necessary to enforce the ruling of the Chair.

Now, I listened with astonishment to the speech delivered by the First Lord of the Treasury. When he was introducing this rule he made a statement which I am compelled to characterise as an absolutely inaccurate statement. He said that this scene the other night was an outrage on the part of the Irish Members without parallel. I challenge that statement, and say it is absolutely contrary to fact. No doubt the scene of policemen promenading up the floor of the House was unparalleled. Since the day when Oliver Cromwell marched into the House surrounded by soldiers and seized the mace and carried it away, no such scene has been seen, but when the First Lord of the Treasury said it was an unparalleled outrage committed by Irishmen I absolutely deny it. I will take two cases where outrage committed by hon. Members not Irish were infinitely greater than that of last Tuesday night. The Irish Members last Tuesday night are regarded as felons. I say that statement is absolutely contrary to the facts. No doubt the bringing of a large body of police on to the floor was unparaleled, but the Irish Members offered violence to nobody until they were assaulted by a large body of police. What happened in the Committee of this House in 1893? It is within the recollection of many of the older Members of the House. The case is very analogous to the present one. The closure had been moved by Mr. Gladstone. When the hour was coming when the automatic closure was to operate, the Opposition of that day put up Mr. Chamberlain, the right hon. Gentleman who is now Secretary for the Colonies, and at ten minutes to the hour he made a speech of the most ferocious and inflammatory character I have ever listened to. He was put up with the deliberate object of exciting passion. He compared Mr. Gladstone to Herod upon his throne calling to be adored. What was the result? Twenty Members of the House refused to leave their seats and to clear the House for a division. The clamour and the disorder far exceeded what, according to what I have heard, occurred on Tuesday night. They defied the Chairman of Committees. Who were those twenty Members? They are all Ministers and officials since. Amongst them were the hon. Member for East Worcestershire (the son of the Colonial Secretary), the hon. member for South Tyrone, and the hon. Member for Fulham, who is now a Lord of the Treasury. These men refused in precisely the same way, and committed the same offence which the Irish Members committed on these benches, but they were under less provocation—because on that occasion in 1893, they committed it as the result of a cold-blooded conspiracy. They were not taken by surprise, their leader was not absent; their leader was there goading them on to the fight. They had full warning that the closure was coming. Irish Members are held up to execration in connection with the incident of two nights ago. But what happened in the case of the English Members on the occasion to which I have referred? The House was in a wild state of confusion, and Englishmen of the Tory and Liberal Unionist Party were openly defying the authority of the Chair. One hon. Member seized another hon. Member by the collar and endeavoured to throw him on the floor. It was the greatest outrage I have ever heard of in the House. It was an outrage because an English Member committed that violence on an hon. Member of this House without any provocation. That hon. Member is a Lord of the Treasury to-day. That outrage was the worst ever committed in the House of Commons in my memory, and, so far as my reading goes, the worst ever perpetrated in the history of the House.* It led to a free fight on the floor of the House. Mr. (now Lord) Peel, who was then Speaker, when he returned to the Chair, and Mr. Gladstone, a man who had at heart the honour and dignity of the House and of the humblest of its Members, and whose leadership was very different from that under which we sit to-day—Lord Peel and Mr. Gladstone spoke words of conciliation and of soothing. What did Lord Peel say? He said, "Let there be no recriminations and let the incident cease."

Now, Sir, one of the things I complain of in the proceedings of the other night is this. I was not here, but I understand there were no words of conciliation, and I am told that the tone of that bench [the Ministerial Bench] was one of insult and contempt. I say deliberately that I do not care in what part of the world you have a large assembly of men, whether it be in Vienna, Berlin, New York, or London, if you attempt to govern a body of free men forming the Members of legislative assemblies on these lines, if you throw away conciliation, and abandon the

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*There is an instance, in 1678, of "giving of blows" between two Members on the floor of the House. See *The Parliamentary History*, vol. iv., page 1045.—ED.]

policy of give and take, it is impossible to carry out that rule which we all desire. I thought it necessary to make that protest, because I repudiate again in the most emphatic manner in reply to the statement of the First Lord of the Treasury that this was a gross outrage perpetrated on the House. It was nothing of the sort, because no Irish Member offered violence of any kind until the police came in and endeavoured to pull them out of the House. Their resistance up to that time was passive resistance, which has again and again been indulged in by other Members of the House. Your own Members have done it, and, of course, they were treated in a different manner because they were English. I repeat again, that the reason of the feeling which has been displayed in regard to this resolution is because the offence on this occasion was committed by Irishmen. If it had been committed by Englishmen, or by any other section of the House, an attempt would have been made at conciliation, and no such penal rule as this would have been proposed.

I come to another case almost equally in point. Some of us remember the days of Charles Bradlaugh, a man I learned to like and have a respect for. Those who were responsible for his maltreatment came to regard him with respect. The case of Mr. Charles Bradlaugh is an instructive case from two points of view. First of all in regard to the different way you treated an English constituency. I desire to associate the privileges of the constituency with those of the Member. You cannot dissociate them. Charles Bradlaugh for two or three years deliberately and repeatedly defied the Speaker and the rules of order in this House. He marched into this House and sat on the cross-bench when an unsworn Member, and over and over again he walked up to the Table and stood there defying the Speaker. He was again and again conducted down by the Serjeant-at-Arms. He himself administered the Oath in defiance of rule and the repeated ruling of the Speaker. This was done deliberately and not as the result of excitement, a sudden impulse of passion, or as a protest against the action of the Ministry. At last the Speaker ordered the Serjeant-at-Arms to remove Mr. Bradlaugh from the precincts of the House. That was an occasion which few of us who witnessed it will ever forget. It was in 1881. Mr. Bradlaugh was seized by a great number of messengers in the House, and just outside the door of the House he was dragged with great violence, while he was kicking, struggling and using his gigantic strength to the utmost extent of his ability. He was dragged across the lobby in presence of crowds of people, dragged down Westminster Hall, and expelled into Palace Yard. No doubt he had been guilty of much worse and more persistent breaches of the rules of the House and the authority of the Chair than any Member on these Irish benches. After this dreadful scene a question of privilege was immediately raised, and Mr. John Bright, an honoured name in this House, came back after witnessing the spectacle, and used the following words—

> "I will put the question to hon. Members opposite and also to some hon. Members on this side of the House—Where are they leading us?"

That is the question I put to Ministers to-night. That question was received with jeers and contempt by the Gentlemen who were the majority in those days—the vast majority in this House. They had, of course, the idea, which has been expressed here to-night, that Mr. Bradlaugh had inflicted a gross outrage on this House. But Mr. Bright, with the true instinct of a constitutional statesman, saw behind Mr. Bradlaugh the constituency that sent him into the House. He saw that the constituency was struck at and wounded through the Member who was dishonoured. You are struggling now not with one constituency but with several constituencies. At the end of that struggle—which was maintained for four years and ended in the capitulation of the Government—every Member admitted in his soul that Mr. Bradlaugh was right. Apply the lesson to the position of to-day. Rules, orders, and regulations are of no avail to deal with this evil. The real master factor of the situation is that we have the constituencies at our backs. The Irish people will not think worse of the Irish party for what has happened. The noble Lord's proposal is to imprison us all, while the Liberal Imperialist would disfranchise Ireland. If you expelled the Irish Members from this House you would at once have an Irish Parliament in Dublin, and the Irish Secretary would find we are more trouble in Dublin than we are here. The Gentlemen who make these proposals are novices in this business. Bigger men than they will ever be have tried their hand at crushing the Irish representatives; Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Forster, and Mr. Trevelyan did their best, but were finally converted. The First Lord has tried and seems inclined to try again, but I do not think he will listen to the proposal which has been made. The truth of it is, we are old hands at the game. I was suspended within a week after I took my seat twenty years ago. You will never preserve order and decency by brutality and coercion, nor by such insolence as we have listened to——

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! That is not the way in which to refer to the speech of another hon. Member.

MR. DILLON: I withdraw the word "insolence" and substitute "offensiveness." The experience of twenty years ought to have taught the Leader of the House that in dealing with Irish Members you can do infinitely more by a little give and take than by any amount of coercion. I say with confidence that if on Tuesday night the sitting had been suspended and two or three hours given to the discussion on the Vote on Account on Thursday, the scene would have been entirely avoided. Would not a small concession of that character have been an infinitely less evil—if we are discussing an evil at all—than the dreadful introduction of a large body of police into this House for the first time, and the scenes of violence which occurred?

Another very important point is that you have a new House to deal with. As regards our own Irish Members it is very important. Dozens of Members are not accustomed to the sudden closure of debate; they do not understand the machinery of a Vote on Account. It is all very fine to give us a long history of the procedure with regard to Votes on Account. The First Lord ought to have looked at these benches and seen that accidentally a great many of the senior Members of our party were absent, and that the benches were crowded with young men who were inexperienced in the ways of the House. He would have taken all these circumstances into consideration if he had been a man fit to lead the House. The hon. Member for Waterford was perfectly justified in saying that a large share of the moral responsibility for Tuesday's occurrences rests, and will in the opinion of a great body of this House rest, on the shoulders of the First Lord of the Treasury.

I propose to move an Amendment raising an extremely important issue. This proposed resolution is an extraordinary and enormous increase of the punitive powers of the Chair. In all our previous discussions it has always been held that the Chair should not have the power to sentence any Member of the House at his discretion to a severe punishment, but that that power should be reserved to the House itself. Then the rule was extended to Standing Order No. 21, giving to the House authority to suspend for the first offence for a week, for a second offence in the same session for a month, and for a third offence for the remainder of the session. Moreover, the House in those days had an amount of provocation which is really quite unknown to the present House. The scene which occurred here the other night would be mild compared to it; at all events, it was a scene which, though very painful, did not last long. But the House which, in 1881 and 1882, originally passed this rule had for months—I might say for sessions—suffered from a series of scenes of violence, and defiance of the Chair, and prolonged all-night sittings, of which the House now has no conception. And yet all that that House could bring itself to do was to take the power of inflicting these graduated punishments. If the House turns to Standing Order No. 27, it will see that the only power ever conferred upon the Chair without a vote of the House was the power of ordering an individual Member to withdraw for the remainder of the sitting, and that is the only power the Chair now has. Standing Order No. 27, as I interpret it, and as it always has been interpreted, gives the Chairman the right to order individual Members to leave the House, naming them individually at the time when they are disorderly. My Amendment is that in line 1 of the resolution the words "or Members acting jointly" be omitted, and then the resolution would read "provided also that any Member who has been suspended." The proposal of the Leader of the House taken in its entirety places in the hands of the Chairman an enormous power of punishment unparalleled in the annals of the House, such as would enable him without a vote of the House to disfranchise constituencies for a whole session, and suspend Members for a whole session. My Amendment provides that in such cases Members should be dealt with separately. I have already alluded to what the Speaker did on a former occasion when five Members were reported, and when each of them was named one by one. The consequence of that precaution was that no question could arise as to a mistake in dealing with the matter. My contention now is, that if you give to the Chair this enormous power of punishment you should hedge round this power with all possible precautions, so as to prevent a mistake being made, as was made the other night, the result of which we saw to-day, when the Chairman of Committees was obliged to admit that he committed a grave error. I believe it was not one mistake alone that was made. I am inclined to think that two or three other Members were unjustly suspended also; at all events there is a great deal of doubt in regard to some other suspensions which took place, and if the mistake had such serious consequences in this case, what would it be to suspend a man for the whole of the session, if it were not absolutely clear that he was guilty of the offence charged against him? Therefore I hold there should be no difficulty in applying this rule to deal with each Member separately, and that would be all the more reasonable, in view of the fact that the punishment is to be inflicted without giving the House any opportunity of expressing its opinion.

I must say that I think the system of wholesale suspension is a most dangerous system to introduce in this House, for it is bound to lead to the most ridiculous and most extraordinary mistakes. I myself went home from this House one night in the session of 1881, leaving an angry debate in progress, and when I returned at six o'clock in the morning I was stopped at the door and told I could not be admitted, that I had been suspended an hour before for obstructing the House. I remember another instance where a similar mistake was made. One of my colleagues was actually named and suspended when he was in mid-Channel on his way to Ireland, owing to a mistake about his name. The same thing could easily happen now when we have so many O'Briens and O'Connors in our party. Therefore I say, that in the exercise of these punitive measures the Chairman should spare no precaution in order to be able to state to the House, from his own knowledge, and not through information supplied to him by a Clerk at the Table, that an hon. Member was an offender. I say, further, that when this House passed this Order giving you, Sir, authority to name a Member, it was never contemplated—no one even dreamt—that the Chairman would send a clerk round the House with a paper and pencil trying to ascertain the names of hon. Members who were alleged to be offenders. What happened on Tuesday night? The Clerk at the Table went down the House, took the names of some of my colleagues, and brought the list to the Chairman; then the Chairman picked out some names and omitted others. I say that sort of procedure is an outrage on the House, and one of the results of it was seen to-day when the Chairman of Committees admitted his mistake and expressed his regret for it. I say, then, with the most perfect confidence, that if the Chairman or Speaker is in doubt as to the identity of an hon. Member he should give that hon. Member the benefit of the doubt, for it would be far better to let off an offender for the time being than that an innocent man should be punished and subjected to the humiliation of being driven out of the House. For these reasons I now move the Amendment standing in my name.

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

"In line 1, to leave out the words 'or Members acting jointly.'" (*Mr. Dillon.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the proposed Amendment."

Sir ROBERT FINLAY: The Government cannot possibly accept this Amendment. The whole rule was specially framed to meet the case of Members banding themselves together to resist the authority of the Chair. The proposal of the Government as it stands does not interfere with the right of naming hon. Members separately. I submit that it is clear to demonstration that, if several Members are acting in combination, so as to render force necessary, it ought to be within the discretion of the Chair to name them.

Mr. HARRINGTON (Dublin, Harbour) said no explanation had been given by those who spoke for the Government as to how this new rule would expedite the business of the House. If Members in such cases were to be taken out separately, surely it would be convenient to name them separately. It was not suggested that two or three at a time, or the whole lot together, should be seized by the police at the same moment and borne out all in a group. He wished to ask, what did the Government expect to gain by this new rule? If the Irish Members were prepared to co-operate with the Government in maintaining respect for the traditions of the House, this rule might be of some use, but if the Irish Members wished to disregard the authority of the Chair could they not, after having disregarded it, go back, and in the last week of the session get suspended one by one? If they did that they would be received by their constituents with open arms. In bringing forward this new rule the right hon. Gentleman was really reducing this question to a fine art, and merely giving those Members who wished to deny the authority of the Chair an opportunity of bringing the House into ridicule and contempt at the end of every session, when they might disregard the Chair, and the whole of them might be suspended in the last week of the session. How did the right hon. Gentleman propose to deal with an hon. Member who was suspended and sent back to his constituents? There was not a single Member on the Irish benches who would not be returned again without the slightest opposition within a week of his suspension.

*Mr. SPEAKER: The question now before the House is the omission of the words "Members acting jointly." The hon. Member must confine himself to the question before the House.

Mr. HARRINGTON said he would take the case of the Members acting jointly. If they were expelled and went back to their constituents they would be returned within a week, and then a further amendment of the rules would be necessary. Was the right hon. Gentleman prepared to receive them back? If the intention was to disfranchise certain constituencies, it would be necessary for the right hon. Gentleman to introduce a further rule, by which the Chancellor of the Exchequer would be precluded from giving the stewardship of the Chiltern Hundreds to Irish Members. But even then there would be nothing to prevent these Irish Members from coming back to the House by making an interchange of constituencies. What he wished to point out was, that if there were people who wanted to cast discredit on Parliamentary institutions, this amendment of the Standing Order would put into their hands the very machinery which would bring the House into contempt.

Mr. LOUGH (Islington, W.): I do not think that the right hon. Gentleman has given this matter his full consideration. The point made by the hon. Member is a fair one. He suggests that under this rule a whole group of Members might be suspended at one blow without the case of each, or the action of each one, being considered and proved. It is difficult to define the words "acting jointly," and that makes this Amendment absolutely necessary. I would like the right hon. Gentleman to explain to the House how "acting jointly" could be proved.

Sir ROBERT FINLAY: The words are already in Rule 21.

Mr. LOUGH: Even so; but we had the House placed to-day in the most humiliating position of apologising unanimously to a single man, just because of those words. It was because of a hurried ruling of the Chair that certain Members had acted jointly that that humiliating apology had to be made, and we may be found in the same difficulty again if the words "acting jointly" are retained. My hon. friend wants that three, four, or five Members should not be suspended in a bunch, but that A, B, or C should be dealt with separately; and I certainly think that, if not his precise Amendment, some other should be adopted which will secure that every one shall have his case dealt with separately.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I cannot help thinking that these words are wholly unnecessary, although not from the point of view of some of the arguments which have been used. The words in Standing Order No. 21 were put in that where a number of Members had acted simultaneously the Speaker should have the power, instead of wasting the time of the House by naming and suspending one after another, to name and suspend them *en bloc*. But under this rule you are not going to have any action of the House or motion made which would involve any loss of time. Each man will necessarily be dealt with separately. He has to be accosted by the Serjeant-at-Arms, and he has to show that he does not yield to the action of the Serjeant-at-Arms. You cannot deal with them *en bloc*; that is impossible. Therefore, not for some of the reasons urged, but in the interests of unburdening the rule of superfluous words, I think they should be omitted. Another thing is that the rule as it stands is very bad grammar.

*MR. BLAKE: The grammar is bad, no doubt, but our objection to the rule is much more serious. The hon. Gentleman has put before the House an enormous change proposed to be made with reference to automatic action on a word from the Chair. And consequently he must recognise the greater necessity of avoiding a repetition of that which was the deepest humiliation of these whole proceedings, when the House was obliged a little time ago to acknowledge that it had taken erroneous action, and had unjustly condemned a colleague. Up to this time the question whether a Member should be suspended has had to be put to the House. On certain conditions Members might be suspended *en bloc*, but generally it is done separately, and always by vote. But what is now proposed is that on the simple announcement by the Speaker to the House that a Member or a number of Members acting jointly have not obeyed his directions, without the House having any opportunity of dealing with the question, they are by that mere announcement suspended, and this for the whole session. You therefore propose by one stroke to enormously increase the punishment, and enormously diminish the security for justice being done. All that we now suggest is that you should name A, B, C individually, instead of referring to them *en bloc*. I do think that calm and cool deliberation will lead the House to see that the Amendment is moderate, and that the rule as it stands is not only bad in grammar, but bad in principle.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carnarvon Boroughs): The rule as it stands is capable of a very serious and unjust interpretation. Take the case that happened on Tuesday night. Twelve Members altogether were suspended because they resisted by force the order of the House. It is true they resisted nominally, but they did not resist the policemen who were called in. What would be the result of an order of the kind proposed? Some Members might protest against what they regarded as an injustice, but might not be prepared to go to the extent of compelling physical force to intervene. Suppose two or three resisted the police, but forty walked out of the House on the suggestion of the Serjeant-at-Arms. Surely to suspend all these forty Members forthwith for a whole session would be a gross injustice, and the Leader of the House cannot contemplate that result. On Tuesday night two or three Members took part in resisting the police, but there were others who did not carry disobedience to that extent. One hon. Member walked out of the House at the suggestion of the Serjeant-at-Arms, and it would be exceedingly unfair that his constituents should be disfranchised, as would be the case if you are going to deal with them *en bloc.*

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: The rule only applies to those against whom, jointly, force would require to be used.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: Exactly; that is what I want to point out. The Chairman reports that a body of Members demand the interference of the police; but it may be that only two or three would persist in disobedience to that extent. This is a question of the rights of the constituencies, and not that of the Members. And it would be exceedingly unfair that some constituencies should be disfranchised, not for the offence of their Members, but for the offence of Members representing other constituencies. If the right hon. Gentleman does not see the injustice of that, he has made it perfectly clear that he does not want to maintain the dignity of the House, but that the object is to disfranchise the whole of the Irish Members and their constituencies.

SIR HENRY FOWLER (Wolverhampton, E.): We are dealing with Standing Order No. 21, which already provides, as my hon. friend has stated, that where Members are merely acting jointly it is within the power of the Speaker to name them jointly, and by one division settle the question whether or not they should be suspended. Now we proceed to go a step further. I do not see the necessity for these words being put in. The process is this. Members are suspended by the vote of the House. They are ordered to leave the House, and they refuse to leave. The Speaker directs them to leave the house, and they refuse to obey his direction, and then the Serjeant-at-Arms must go to each man individually and not to the Members jointly. He cannot possibly do that. He goes to A, who may get up and go out, and therefore A would be out of the business altogether, and there would be no necessity for calling in physical force. But B might say, "No, I won't go," and thus refuse to obey the direction of the Speaker, or the summons of the Serjeant-at-Arms. Then the Speaker, this being done in the view of the House, and the Members witnessing what is going on, says that physical force is necessary to secure compliance with his order. Then this new order would apply only to that Member.

MR. DILLON: No, to all the rest. Why not strike out the words.?

SIR HENRY FOWLER: You cannot put a dozen men out jointly.

MR. DILLON: Yes, you can. The right hon. Gentleman misunderstands me. It is not a question of putting them out. It is a question of suspending them for the rest of the session.

SIR HENRY FOWLER: It simply comes to this, that the Speaker reports to the House—and the House itself is the judge at that moment—that a certain Member refuses to obey the order of the Chair, and that it is necessary to use physical force to secure that obedience. Following upon that report the individual Member is suspended under the operation of the rule.

MR. CRIPPS (Lancashire, Stretford): I think that what we are discussing is a mere verbal amendment. This really means that any Member who does not obey the order of the Speaker when summoned by the Serjeant-at-Arms comes under the penalty of this Order. Under these circumstances, the words "any Member" would in themselves be quite sufficient. The words "or Members acting jointly" might well be left out, and then the new Order would be in the simplest possible form. It would cover any Member who disobeys the Order.

MR. FLYNN (Cork, N.): The right hon. Gentleman the First Lord of the Treasury has made it perfectly clear that he means to disregard all suggestions coming from this side of the House, and to rely on his majority to carry the motion. It would appear from the way in which the new rule is drafted that the First Lord of the Treasury has not very much regard for grammar; but there is something more than slipshod grammar. It is admitted that the other night a mistake was made in regard to one Member. I can say of my own knowledge that a mistake was made in regard to two Members. Constituencies all over Ireland are to be disfranchised for acts their Members have not committed. I cannot for the life of me conceive how the Government, after what has fallen from the hon. and learned Member opposite, will stick to the phraseology of the Amendment which was hastily drafted. Surely nothing can be clearer than the fact that on Tuesday night a mistake was made by the Chair, unwittingly, no doubt. Would it not be a very great matter that the Standing Order should be so simplified that the disfranchisement for the remainder of the session of a large number of Irish Members of this House should not take place? How do the Government treat this Amendment of the hon. Member for East Mayo? They put up the English Attorney General, who in a few offhand phrases, and without paying any attention to the context of the Amendment, says that there is really nothing in the matter, and that he cannot accept the Amendment. Members get up on the Front Opposition Bench and point out the reasonableness of the hon. Member for East Mayo, and the members of the Government sit tight and keep mum, and they will call their obedient followers to support them in the lobby. This is but another illustration of the spirit that underlay their action on Tuesday night when the closure was moved. Surely the Government have something more to say about the Amendment. The only independent Member on the other side of the House who spoke on this matter is the hon. and learned Member who recommended to the House the Amendment of the hon. Member for East Mayo. Are they going to do nothing but rely on their majority, whipped up by a five-line whip, to carry the motion? The only reply we have from the Government on this Amendment takes the form of a conspiracy of silence.

Mr. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy Burghs): I think the Government might very well, without any loss of dignity, reconsider the position they have taken up on the Amendment. I ask them to do so for two reasons. Their object is the same as that of Members on these benches who support the Amendment. For the life of me I cannot understand the object of the Government in refusing to accept the Amendment. Is it that they imagine themselves so much above criticism? [An Hon. Member: No.] Why is it? Every speech made in support of it has been reasonable, and the hon. and learned Gentleman behind them stated that the Amendment was reasonable and carried out the object the Government had in view. It seems to me that we have a strong case for protest in this matter. This is a reasonable Amendment and ought to be accepted. I say it is not the duty of the Government, and it is not the duty of the Leader of the House, to put the authority in the Chair in the position in which the resolution will place him. This Amendment might be the means of suspending fifty Members of the House, and it might disfranchise a large number of constituencies. The House is very much divided as to the real meaning of the rule, and the exercise of it may bring about an intolerable situation and place the Chair in a position which would give rise to the greatest dissatisfaction to the House at a moment when it is least desirable that dissatisfaction should be felt. I appeal to the Leader of the House not to shut his ears to the views which have been expressed in support of the Amendment. I appeal to the right hon. Gentleman in the interests of those who propose this resolution, and in the interests of the Chair, to accept the Amendment.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: The hon. Gentleman has made a direct appeal to me, and I am very unwilling not to reply to it. He asks me whether the Government have come down to the House with this resolution in a stereotyped form determined to resist all Amendments and to fight the thing through without a comma or a stop being changed. I hope that we have manifested that we have not done so, for we have already accepted an Amendment—I do not say of very great importance, but certainly an Amendment of substance—proposed by the right hon. Gentleman opposite. I do not think that any hon. Gentleman on the other side of the House who has argued this question has been able to prove that the rule as it is drafted will produce injustice.

MR. DILLON: Really I take an entirely different view. I think the rule as drafted might have this result, that the Serjeant-at-Arms might approach one or two Members said to be acting jointly, and might then report to the House that the whole body were acting jointly. Then a number of Members quite willing to go out might be suspended.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not think that result is possible under the Amendment suggested by the right hon. Gentleman, and we must consider the rule as if it were amended. The Serjeant-at-Arms would have to touch each Member separately.

MR. JOHN ELLIS: Then why do you want the words in?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The point I was putting to the House was that nobody pretends that injustice would occur.

MR. DALZIEL: Yes; we all feel it.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The hon. Gentleman's own Front Bench say that they do not for a moment suggest that the words are likely to lead to injustice, nor do I see how injustice can be done.

MR. DALZIEL: It places on the Chair the duty of saying whether or not Members are acting jointly.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I think it extremely probable that Mr. Speaker also might make an appeal separately with regard to each individual if force was necessary, but I should imagine that in cases in which there was joint action the fact of each Member being separately touched would prevent the necessity of a separate appeal to the House in regard to each one of them. It surely is desirable that we should keep to the leading idea which governed the framers of the rule, that one of the most formidable dangers that this House runs is not from the isolated action of any individual disorderly person, but from the joint action of a number of Members. It seems clear that no substantial injustice can arise from the form in which the rule is drawn up. I think it is in conformity with the earlier part of the rule. It keeps the continuity of the drafting from one clause of the rule to another, and it keeps to the end of the rule that idea which dominated the original framers of the rule, that conspiracy or joint action to defeat the orders of the House on the part of any body of Members is one of the great dangers against which this rule is essentially directed.

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.): The right hon. Gentleman seems to have forgotten the ordinary rule of interpretation in law, namely, that when you find words which appear to be surplusage you are bound to try to find some other meaning for them. Our contention is that these words are pure surplusage, and I do not understand the right hon. Gentleman to argue that they are necessary. He refers entirely to the rest of the rule in order to find a certain model and style. Nothing whatever is gained by keeping these words in, because all that Mr. Speaker has to do is to name each person individually. It is not a question of going to a division; it is not a question of consuming the time which divisions require; it is merely that an individual has to be named by Mr. Speaker. It is surely far better, in view of any possible accident that might occur, that Mr. Speaker should name each person individually than lump a number of people together. I agree with the hon. Member opposite, that this is purely a question of drafting. Any person, lawyer or not, who applies his commonsense to the rule and the draft order, and reads it leaving out these words, will see that all the object the Government can possibly have in view will be attained if this Amendment is accepted. Under these circumstances I make one more appeal to them to give way on this point.

MR. TULLY (Leitrim, S.): I think the rule has been framed in this form in order to cover the bungle made by the officials the other night in the case of the hon. Member for South Fermanagh. Under this rule it could be held that although a Member went into the division lobby, if he sat on these benches and some Irish Members were expelled he was acting jointly with them, and would be suspended also. These words introduce an altogether new element into the

Standing Order; they import some of the conspiracy law, so that a Member who might be in any other part of the House could be held to be acting jointly with others, whereas the original rule was that they should be present together and disregard the ruling of the Chair. That is a very dangerous innovation. Even distinguished Members on the other side of the House cannot understand what the rule means in this form, and if you cannot understand it yourselves how can you expect us—uncultivated Members as we are called—to be able to follow it in all its devious windings? This conspiracy law can be stretched very far. I have been twice convicted of conspiracy myself——

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member is making no reference to the Amendment before the House.

MR. TULLY: I was trying to illustrate the danger of the resolution as framed by the Government by a case which came under my own knowledge. [Laughter.] This may be a laughing matter for hon. Gentlemen opposite, but it is framed especially for Irish Members, although it is very probable that the worst offenders and those to whom it is first applied may not be Irish representatives at all. These words "acting jointly" are very dangerous, and the Government would be well advised to accept the Amendment.

*MR. DUKE (Plymouth): I think it will be obvious to men who are familiar with the principles of drafting that the terms of description which are used in the Standing Order here proposed to be amended are properly retained as the description of the class of Members with whom it is proposed to deal by this Amendment of the Standing Order, and for my part I agree with the Attorney General, if I may say so, in thinking that to drop in this part of the Amendment the form of words used in the existing Standing Order for the purpose of describing the persons to be dealt with by these punitive measures would involve some danger in the administration of the Standing Order. But I feel with hon. Members opposite that there is a danger that in the practice of the House the terms of the Amendment to the Standing Order would leave it open to the Speaker, or whoever might be exercising the powers conferred by the Standing Order, to deal collectively with a body of Members who had brought themselves within its terms. I do not think that the proper mode of avoiding that danger is to omit the words of description which properly occur in the first line of the proposed Amendment. I think the proper mode would be to insert before the word "refuse" the word "respectively." Then the Member, or Members, of the House acting jointly, would be designated as persons who are appropriately to be punished by the action of the Chair, but there would be required a demand upon each Member severally for conformity to the order of the Chair. That demand would be made upon each Member for compliance and obedience, and if the individual refused to obey the order of the Speaker the penalty would follow. I am sure the Attorney General desires to have nothing in this Amendment to the Standing Order which would leave it possible for any such mistake as that of Wednesday morning to recur, and I think the suggestion I have made would leave both the principle of the Standing Order and the mode of its operation perfectly clear, and the case of each individual Member could be dealt with as might be necessary.

MR. HARWOOD (Bolton) said the proposal appeared to him to apply to Members who were jointly resisting the application of force. The meaning of the word was not very clear, and he would like the Attorney General to give some clearer explanation.

MR. KIMBER (Wandsworth): I think that if the Government yield to the Amendment moved from the opposite side of the House they will fall into a trap. The Standing Order as it stands provides for two cases—that of a single Member behaving in an improper manner, and also the case of a number of Members acting jointly. They are presumed to have been suspended, and if they are suspended at all, then, of course, they must be suspended for a week. This proviso adds a further punishment in case, after having received the order from the Chair to leave the House, they refuse to obey that order. In that case the punishment is extended to the end of the session. The proposal, therefore, applies to two cases—single action and joint action. If the Government yield to this suggested Amendment, then the very case which happened on Tuesday last will not be covered. The proposal clearly alludes only to such Members as refuse to obey the Chairman's direction, and I trust that the Government will not yield to this inducement which has been offered.

MR. WALLACE (Perth): According to the statement of the last speaker, if Members act jointly they are suspended jointly, and afterwards you can deal with them individually. I presume that the Serjeant-at-Arms will approach each one of these Members and request him to leave, and then if they all refuse this rule comes into operation. Now, I have no wish to weaken the force of this resolution at all, but I do ask the Attorney General to consider this point, and inform us what he gains by keeping in these words. We have spent some hours discussing the point, and I do not think the words are necessary.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I agree that the discussion on this drafting Amendment has hardly been worth the time given to it. For the reasons given by the hon. and learned Member for Plymouth, I should like to adhere to the words "Members acting jointly," but what everybody appears to desire can be gained if we amend the Amendment which was originally suggested by the right hon. Gentleman opposite, by inserting after "shall refuse to obey the direction of the Speaker" the words "when severally summoned under the Speaker's orders by the Serjeant-at-Arms to obey such direction."

MR. CHANNING (Northamptonshire, E.): I suppose the object of this is to extend the rule to such deplorable scenes as were witnessed on Tuesday night. I think if you omit the words suggested you will be achieving that purpose, for they are admittedly surplusage. Even the Amendment suggested by the First Lord of the Treasury will not relieve the rule from the uncertainty which appears to prevail.

MR. DILLON: I have only got a word or two to say in reply to the First Lord of the Treasury. We know what happened on Tuesday night, and what is possible under the rule is that the Serjeant-at-Arms might order——

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member has no right of reply on the Amendment.

MR. DILLON: I was simply going to say that I accept this Amendment, because I can get nothing better, and because it carries out to a considerable extent the object I have in view, although I think that object would have been accomplished better by my Amendment. I beg leave to withdraw my Amendment.

Amendment to the proposed Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: I beg to move in the third line after the word "Speaker" that occurs first, to insert the following words, "when severally summoned under the Speaker's orders by the Serjeant-at-Arms to obey such direction." I think these words prevent any possibility of doubt as to the meaning of our proposition.

Amendment to the proposed Amendment agreed to.

*MR. BLAKE: I must confess that I do not find that care taken in this proposal in regard to the announcement to the House of the offending Members which I think ought under such circumstances to be taken. There is nothing to say that the Speaker shall report to the House that A, B, or C are the persons who have refused to obey his direction. There is nothing to define upon whom the axe is to fall. The Speaker is simply required to announce that force is necessary in order that his directions may be obeyed. That seems to me to be an unsuitable method likely to produce added injustice. I suggest that after the words "Member or Members" in the fifth line, the words "who have" be deleted for the purpose of inserting the words "named by him as having."

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I accept that Amendment.

Amendment to the proposed Amendmend agreed to.

MR. DILLON: I propose to move an Amendment, if in order in doing so, to omit in line 6 the words after "thereupon" to the end, for the purpose of inserting, "be suspended from the service of the House for such period as the House may determine." I have not much hope of securing acceptance of this Amendment, but I do wish, before dealing with the proposed new Standing Order as a whole, to raise the issue in a clear and simple form as to whether you are going to put into the hands of any official the power to suspend a Member and practically disfranchise a constituency for possibly the greater part of a session. My proposal is that, the Speaker having reported to the House that certain Members have been named by him as having declined to act on his direction, and that force is necessary to compel them to do so, the House may proceed to deal with them as to the House seems best. I know that this will be open to the old objection that debate will ensue, and time be consumed. But I think if we are going to deal with five or six Members we should have a debate. It is, however, perfectly easy to amend the Amendment. The course of proceeding would then be, that the Leader of the House, having all the circumstances of the case in his mind, would report to the House on the report of the Speaker, and move a motion to suspend the Members for one month or six months. Consider what you are asking. It is to put into the hands of the Speaker a most unreasonable power; for, mark, towards the close of the session the punishment would be no punishment at all, but a farce. At the beginning of the session, however, there would be no alternative but to suspend for the whole of the session. I want to leave it to the House to assign the amount of the punishment, and I am prepared to accept an Amendment on my Amendment that the question should be put to the House for acceptance without debate.

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment, as amended, in line 6, to leave out from the word "thereupon" to the end of the proposed Amendment, as amended, in order to add the words, "be suspended from the service of the House for such period as the House may determine."—(*Mr. Dillon.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'and without further Question put' stand part of the proposed Amendment, as amended."

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The hon. Gentleman has put his Amendment before the House in two alternative forms. Under the first form, which was that put from the Chair, the House is to decide after debate on the length of the sentence of deprivation; but the hon. Member suggests another form, in which the rule would still be one of summary jurisdiction. As to the first form, the very fact that it permits debate would entirely destroy the value of the rule. It is absolutely necessary that there should be no debate. The rule must remain an addition to the summary jurisdiction of the House. The alternative form is open to this vital objection, which perhaps no one feels so keenly as I do. The idea is that the Leader of the House is to propose that "Mr. So-and-so" and "Mr. So-and-so" should be deprived of the right of sitting in the House for one, two, three, or four months, according to the sweet will of the Leader of the House, and that that proposition is to be immediately decided by the House without debate. I have been called a great many hard names in the course of the debate; and I may be the tyrant which I have been represented; but I can assure the House that my appetite for absolute power would be surfeited long before I would consent to exercise the jurisdiction with which the hon. Member wishes to entrust me. Imagine the Leader of the House having to make, on the spur of the moment, a rough estimate of the relative wickedness of a number of Gentlemen, and proposing rapidly to the House punishments corresponding to the scale of wickedness. Imagine also the position of the House having to vote "Aye" or "No," without debate or deliberation, on the proposal of the Leader of the

House. In neither form is the proposal of the hon. Member admissible, and I hope the hon. Gentleman will not persevere with it.

*MR. BLAKE: The hon. Gentleman has pointed out a difficulty attending summary jurisdiction in the exercise of a discretion as to what punishment should be imposed, whether for one, two, three, or four months. I wish to point out the bearing of these difficulties in the plan which he himself has proposed to the House. He suggests with all the weight of his authority that the punishment should always be the extreme punishment. Under the rule the Member is to be suspended for the longest period for which you can suspend him at all. The very worst is to be done. And the opportunity of making that worst a little less, and of thus making the punishment a little more proportionate to the case, is what the hon. Gentleman now rejects, because his emotions will not permit him to discharge that pleasing duty.

*MR. STUART WORTLEY (Sheffield, Hallam): The supporters of this Amendment forget another fatal objection, namely, that it would involve the taking of another division, and they ignore the fact that the proceedings of the other night prove that it might be made physically and materially impossible to take a division at all. Unless that is provided against we shall play into the hands of those who organised these proceedings. ["Withdraw!"] I fully accept the statement of the hon. Member for Waterford that the proceedings of the other night were not organised, but after that experience it would be madness to assume that no such proceedings would ever be organised in the future. In making provision against such an occurrence the Government are doing no more than their duty. We must be ready for the same kind of thing being repeated, and any kind of rule which makes it possible for Members to make a division physically impossible will fail in its object. The desire of the hon. Gentleman is quite clear. He wants to have some differentiation made between offences varying in character. But the rule does that already. In any case there is an equally good way of obtaining the same object. If the rule provided that there should be this instantaneous and automatic suspension until the pleasure of the House was further known, the same object would be attained. But the rule as it stands secures that object, because there is nothing whatever to prevent the House from voting the suspension of any of its Standing Orders. The essential thing is that the House should remain master of the time and manner of taking any proceedings in the direction of clemency.

MR. VICARY GIBBS (Hertfordshire, St. Alban's): The right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the Opposition said that the question of time would be one of the matters which would lead to great difference of opinion, and I imagine that the Amendment we are now discussing is moved because it is supposed that the proposal of the First Lord is too severe. But circumstances may easily occur in which it will not be severe enough. If such an offence as this rule is aimed at should come at the end of the session, the punishment proposed will be practically nil. I quite agree with the hon. Member for East Mayo that this is not a question of punishment at all. It is a question of protecting the House from breaches of its rules. It is essential that we should so protect it, and all who have heard the speeches of the hon. Members for Waterford and East Mayo must see that they do not hold out any hope of our not having in the future such scenes as we have had in the past, but, on the contrary, they plainly threaten a repetition of those occurrences. I consider that it is a question not so much of the individuals who make these disturbances, as of the constituencies who return men to this House who are unable to conduct themselves properly; they should be taught by experience that this House will not tolerate such scenes, and they should have the opportunity of thinking over the matter until another Parliament has assembled, so that they can then select men who are more fit to occupy positions as Members of this House than those who have so disgraced themselves. This question has nothing whatever to do with whether the First Lord acted in a grossly tyrannical manner—[Cries of "Order, order!"]

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order!

MR. VICARY GIBBS: I imagine I was going beyond the scope of the Amendment, but I could not hear your words, Sir, in consequence of the uproar. I consider that the time allotted under this Standing Order may be far too short instead of too long. This is a most serious question, involving the credit of the House in the country. If the House does not mark with sufficient severity its sense of what has taken place, it will lose its position in the eyes of the country. On that ground I think the Government, if they make any alteration in the resolution, should make it in the direction of increased severity rather than of leniency.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 413; Noes, 79. (Division List No. 43.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir A. F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Aird, Sir John
Allan, William (Gateshead)
Allen, C. P. (Glouc., Stroud)
Allhusen, Augustus H. Eden
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arrol, Sir William
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert H.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, RtHnGerald W (Leeds
Balfour, Maj KR(Christchurch
Banbury, Frederick George
Barry, Sir Francis T. (Windsor)
Bartley, George C. T.
Bathurst, Hn. Allen Benjamin
Beach, RtHn. SirM. H. (Bristol)
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Beckett, Ernest William
Bell, Richard
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Col. Henry
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles, T. Gibson(King'sLynn)
Brand, Hon. Arthur G.
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, Col. Montagu
Brown, Alexander H. (Shrop.
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Bull, William James
Bullard, Sir Harry
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Burt, Thomas
Butcher, John George
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carlile, William Walter
Causton, Richard Knight
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
Cawley, Frederick.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.
Chamberlain, J Austen (Worc'r
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, SirJohnCharlesReady
Colston, Charles E. H. Athole
Colville, John
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Cook, Frederick Lucas
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cox, Irwin Edw. Bainbridge
Craig, Robert Hunter
Cranborne, Viscount
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Crombie, John William
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Cross, H. Shepherd (Bolton)
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Dewar, J. A. (Inverness-shire
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dimsdale, Sir Joseph C.
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred. D.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Doxford, Sir Wm. Theodore
Duke, Henry Edward
Duncan, James H.
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Dyke, Rt. Hn. William Hart
Edwards, Frank
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph D.
Emmott, Alfred
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
Faber, George Denison
Fardell, Sir T. George
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. M. (Leith)
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J (Manc'r
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
Fitzroy, Hon. Edward A.
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Sir M. (London Univ.)
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, J. M. F.
Garfit, William
Gibbs, HnA. G. H. (CityofLond.
Gibbs, Hn. Vicary (St. Albans)
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert J.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Godson, Sir Augustus Fred.
Gordon, HnJ. E. (Elgin&Nairn)
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)
Gordon, MajEvans-(T'rH'ml'ts
Gore, Hon. F. S. Ormsby-
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John E.
Goschen, Hon. George J.
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Grant, Corrie
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Green, W. D. (Wednesbury)
Greene, SirEW(B'rySEdm'nds
Greene, H. D. (Shrewsbury)
Grenfell, William Henry
Gretton, John
Groves, James Grimble
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Haldane, Richard Burdon
Hall, Edward Marshall
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, RtHnLordG. (Mid'x
Hamilton, Marqof(L'nd'nderry
Harcourt, Rt Hon. SirWilliam
Hardy, Laurence(Kent, Ashfrd
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harris, F. Leverton(Tynem'th
Harwood, George
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.

Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayne, Rt. Hon. CharlesSeale-
Hayter, Rt. Hn. Sir Arthur D.
Heath, Arthur H. (Hanley)
Heath, James(Staffords. N. W.
Heaton, John Henniker
Helder, Augustus
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Alexander
Hermon-Hodge, Robert T.
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hoare, EdwBrodie(Hampstead
Hobhouse, C. E. H.(Bristol, E.
Hobhouse, Henry(Somerset, E.
Hope, J.F (Sheffield, Brightside
Horner, Frederick William
Horniman, Frederick John
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Hoult, Joseph
Howard, CaptJ.(Kent, Favers.
Howard, J.(Midd., Tottenham
Hozier, Hn. JamesHenryCecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hughes, Colonel Edwin
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Hutton, John (Yorks. N.R.)
Jackson, Rt. Hon. WmLawies
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, DavidBrynmor(Swansea
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (Denbigh
Kenyon, James (Lancs., Bury)
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop
Keswick, William
Kimber, Henry
Kinloch, Sir John G. Smyth
Kitson, Sir James
Knowles, Lees
Lambert, George
Lambton, Hn. Frederick Wm.
Law, Andrww Bonar
Lawrence, William F.
Lawson, John Grant
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lecky, Rt. Hn. WilliamEdw. H
Lee, CaptA H(Hants. Fareham
Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leng, Sir John
Leveson-Gower, FrederickN.S.
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. C. W. (Evesham)
Long, RtHnWalter (Bristol, S.)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macartney, RtHnW.G. Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
M'Calmont, Col. J. (Antrim, E.)
M'Crae, George
M'Iver, Sir L. (Edinburgh, W.)
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Maple, Sir John Blundell
Markham, Arthur Basil
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Massey-Mainwaring, HnW.F.
Mather, William
Maxwell, RtHnSirHE (Wigt'n
Maxwell, WJH(Dumfriesshire
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
Milner, Rt. Hn. SirFrederickG.
Milton, Viscount
Milward Col. Victor
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
More, R. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen
Morley, Charles (Breconshire)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)
Moulton, John Fletcher
Mowbray, Sir Robt. Gray C.
Muntz, Philip A.
Murray, RtHnAGraham (Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Newnes, Sir George
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer, SirCharlesM.(Durham
Palmer, GeorgeWm. (Reading)
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Parker, Gilbert
Parkes, Ebenezer
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, Herb. Pike (Darlington)
Peel, Hn. WmRobertWellesley
Pemberton, John S. G.
Penn, John
Percy, Earl
Pilkington, Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Price, Robert John
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir John
Rasch, Major Frederick Carne
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Reckitt, Harold James
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Charles Bine
Rentoul, James Alexander
Renwick, George
Richards, Henry Charles
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridley, Hn. M. W. (Stalybridge
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Robertson, Herbert(Hackney)
Robson, William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Round, James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W.
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col. Sadler Alexander
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Sandys, Lieut.-Col. ThosMyles
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Saunderson, Rt. Hn. Col. Edw. J
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seely, CharlesHilton(Lincoln)
Seton-Karr, Henry
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (Renfrew
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Sinclair, CaptJohn(Forfarshire
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, AbelH. (Hertford, East)
Smith, HC(North'mbTyneside
Smith, JamesParker(Lanarks.
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer, Rt. Hn CR(Northants
Stanley, HonArthur(Ormskirk
Stanley, EdwardJas(Somerset
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stevenson, Francis S.
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir JohnM.
Stock, James Henry
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Stroyan, John
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Uni.
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
Thomas, F. Freeman-(Hastings
Thomas, JA(Glamorgan, Gow'r
Thomson, F. W. (York, W. R.
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomkinson, James
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Tufnell, Col. Edward
Valentia, Viscount
Wallace, Robert
Walton, John L. (Leeds, S.)
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Warner, Thomas C. T.
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Wason, Eugene(Clackmannan)
Webb, Col. William George
Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E. (T'unt'n
Welby, Sir C. G. E. (Notts.)
Wharton, Rt. Hon. John L.
Whiteley, Geo. (York, W. R.)
Whitmore, Charles Algernon

Williams, Col. R. (Dorset)
Williams, Rt Hn J. Powell-(Bir.
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wills, Sir Frederick
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
Wilson, F.W. (Norfolk, Mid.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson, J.W. (Worcestersh., N.
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
Woodhouse, Sir J T (Huddersf'd
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Ambrose, Robert
Atherley-Jones, L.
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Black, Alexander William
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Boyle, James
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Burns, John
Caine, William Sproston
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Carew, James Laurence
Carvill, Patrick George H.
Channing, Francis Allston
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Delany, William
Dillon, John
Duffy, William J.
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, John Edward
Farrell, James Patrick
Flynn, James Christopher
Hammond, John
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil
Harrington, Timothy
Hayden, John Patrick
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Chas. H.
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Patrick James
Labouchere, Henry
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Mooney, John J.
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Col. J. P. (Galway, N.)
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary, Mid)
O'Connor, Jas. (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, Jas. (Roscommon, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Pirie, Duncan V.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Redmond, William (Clare)
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roche, John
Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
Tully, Jasper
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Patrick O'Brien and Mr. Haviland-Burke.

Lord HUGH CECIL (Greenwich): Perhaps I ought to apologise, being of such junior standing and experience in the House, for introducing an Amendment of so much importance in the discussion of a question which is necessarily so delicate and in my opinion of the utmost gravity. I only venture to do so because my feeling in the matter is a very strong one, and if there be, as doubtless there may be, Members of longer standing who are inclined to criticise my action, I hope I may mitigate their ill opinion by the studied moderation which I desire to display. I have listened with great interest to the greater number of the speeches delivered in this debate, and I think only that of the hon. Member for the Mansfield Division reflected the view I am anxious to urge upon the House. What is the feeling of the great body of sober and well-judging people in this country about violent disorder? I am not speaking of the past, I do not desire to speak of the past, I am speaking of the future—the disorder that has to be dealt with should it arise under the Amendment of the Standing Order which has been proposed

I am satisfied that the great body of sober, well-judging people of the community, who are, let us not forget, the true governors of the country, entertain feelings of repugnance against violent disorder which are not to be described by milder terms than abhorrence and contempt. If this House as a body were to show itself unable to deal with that kind of disorder, it would pass away as a body enjoying any moral authority, it would cease to be what the House of Commons has been in the past. I will not dilate at any length on the moral authority of the House of Commons. I will only submit two aspects of it. We hear often of the infringement of the rights of private Members, and it cannot be denied that there is going on a transfer of political power from the House of Commons to the Cabinet. I am not thinking of this Cabinet or of that, but of the Cabinet as an institution. The Cabinet is apparently an institution which is growing in influence and in repute with their countrymen; it is the House of Commons which is apparently losing it. Why is it that appeals for the rights of private Members fall, outside the walls of this House, on deaf ears? Why is it that nobody cares outside these walls about the rights of private Members? Because there is a deep-seated feeling that the House is an institution which has ceased to have much authority or much repute, and that when a better institution, represented by the Cabinet, encroaches upon the rights of a worse one, it is a matter of small concern to the country. But there is another institution in the country which the Members of the Opposition are accustomed to regard with great jealousy—I mean the House of Lords. Hon. Members opposite are accustomed playfully sometimes to remind us that, whereas we employ the closure or encroach on their rights now when we are in a majority, we will suffer when we are in a minority. I will venture to address a similar argument to them. The time may come when hon. Gentlemen opposite will be in a majority and they may be anxious to rally popular support in a contest or dispute with the House of Lords. In such a case, of course, the active matter in dispute is of great importance, but there is also the element of the moral authority of the two Assemblies that are in conflict. Is the moral authority of the House of Commons growing stronger as against that of the House of Lords? I would remind the House how the House of Lords was employed on Tuesday evening. There was a debate in which men of great eminence took part. There were sharp divisions of opinion and even sharp criticisms, but they were expressed with the utmost dignity and decorum—attributes which the great body of English people admire and expect in a Senate.

Mr. DILLON: They have no closure.

Lord HUGH CECIL: The issue is of the greatest possible importance. If this House fails in moral authority, the whole balance of the Constitution is upset. If it decays, another set of institutions will take its place which we may live to regret, and hon. and right hon. Gentlemen opposite perhaps more than anyone else, if they do not make a stand against that disorder which must destroy an institution in the esteem of the country. It may be said that the Amendment I intend to propose is of a more drastic character—that it militates against legitimate opposition, or might be used improperly against those who oppose a measure, perhaps with some extravagance, but still substantially fairly and properly. Let me remind the House of the most celebrated opposition of recent times—that to the Home Rule Bill. It may be held by hon. Gentlemen opposite that that Opposition was unreasonably, obstructively conducted, but in no solitary case did any of those who were opposing the Home Rule Bill come in conflict with the Chair. In the last Parliament the Voluntary Schools Bill was vehemently opposed, but no Member was suspended during the proceedings upon it. On the Agricultural Rating Bill it is true that during an all-night sitting a large number of Members were suspended. But these cases would be beyond the scope of and would not be affected by the Amendment. The Standing Order as framed is not adequate to the gravity of the occasion in my view. Suspension is a remedy which varies in effect with the period of the session in which it is imposed. At the present time it would be very severe, later in the year less severe, and in July hardly a penalty at all. So it is not a good remedy. Violent conduct in the House is not only an offence against Parliamentary orders and manners, but an offence against the ordinary law of the land; it is a criminal offence. If the violence were done in the street those who committed it would suffer imprisonment. Why should violence when it is aggravated by a gross Parliamentary offence be more leniently treated here? Sober, well-judging people do not draw a distinction between Members of Parliament and other persons; if they do, it is to expect a higher degree of morality and orderliness from their legislators. "Why," they ask, "if a Member of Parliament is violent and assaults those acting in the execution of their duty, should he not be punished with the imprisonment which would overtake one of ourselves?" I think the punishment of imprisonment will express our indignation against the offence, and that is one of the great objects of punishment.

Sir, I will end as I began, by appealing to the opinion of the community. In our country the constitution is not written in a document. It is not amended by formal legislation. It grows in one direction or another. It is hardly possible for an observer to trace its growth, A custom grows up one hardly knows how, and there is a change. Be sure of it, that if we neglect disorder it will gain a hold on the House, and the usefulness and power of the House will be gone never to return. Though we have conducted ourselves in a light vein, we are engaged in the gravest constitutional question which has been before us since the Home Rule Bill. It goes to the vitals of the Constitution. I have no scruple in moving that imprisonment should be assigned for the offence of violent misconduct. Imprisonment for such an offence in the House is not unknown. It was formerly the chief punishment for disorderly conduct in the House. On Tuesday night it would have been perfectly lawful for the Speaker to have committed every Member who was then guilty of disorderly conduct. What I am proposing is that the authority of the Chair, which may be exercised under the order of the House, should be exercised without the order of the House. A more constitutional proposal could not be made. I beg to move the Amendment of which I have given notice.

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

"In line 6, after the word 'put,' to insert the words 'shall be committed to prison until the further order of the House, and shall.'"—(*Lord Hugh Cecil.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the proposed Amendment, as amended."

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: My noble friend has moved an Amendment and he has made a speech. I draw a distinction between the speech and the Amendment. With the great body of the speech I agree. I thought his speech an impressive statement of fact. I think many of the dangers which he has signalised are real dangers. I think it is true that if this House is to retain, as I believe it still retains, the great position which it occupies of authority in the country, it can only do so by seeing that its rules are respected and that order prevails within its walls. I do not go into certain aspects of the question brought forward by my noble friend. He travelled into far regions. I feel that I could not with advantage, on the present occasion, follow him into the respective developments to which he referred of Cabinets and Parliament in the way of a balance, or the growing or waning influence of the House of Lords and the House of Commons. These are considerations which lead far beyond the necessities of the occasion, but they were not out of place in the speech of my noble friend, because he desired to present his own strong and earnest convictions of the vital interests with which we have got to deal in discussing the Amendment of the Standing Order now before the House. Therefore, though I cannot comment adequately in the space of a speech on his proposal, with the general trend of his argument I have no particular desire to quarrel; but when I look into his speech I find a lack of cohesion, a certain want of rigid political logic, between the means and the ends. Though the ends aimed at by my noble friend are excellent, the means are not, I think, likely to achieve them. My noble friend took objection to our proposal on the ground that the punishment to be meted out will diminish as the session goes on, so that towards the end the punishment would be very small. My noble friend forgot to notice that that objection—and I think it is a weakness in the Standing Order—attaches as much to the Standing Order as it stands as it attaches to the Standing Order proposed by us. My noble friend is under the impression that a Member in prison towards the end of the session would not be released when the prorogation arrives.

LORD HUGH CECIL: Even a short period of imprisonment would be an improvement.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny): Send for two resident magistrates.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: My noble friend does not quite follow me. I was not touching on that part of his speech in which he seemed to indicate that the punishment we propose would be unequal. I was arguing that our punishment was unequal, and that the inequality attaches both to imprisonment by the House and to suspension. I leave that argument, because I understand my noble friend now abandons it. I am not at all sure that there may not be cases of disorder and violent acts for which the punishment provided would be totally inadequate; but remember we are dealing with a summary and automatic procedure, and that in dealing with that procedure it is essential that the punishment should not go beyond a certain amount. Now, Sir, let it be noticed that the House maintains all the powers it at present possesses. Nothing in this rule affects the existing powers, but it strengthens the action of the House in ordering suspension for the session. It is open to the House to amend the rule and inflict severe punishment. It is also conceivable—I trust it is only conceivable, not probable, not measurably probable—that criminal proceedings might have to be taken against a Member of this House. After all, the immunities of this House do not extend to committing with impunity a crime in this House which out of it would be a punishable crime. But when my noble friend suggests that as part of an ordinary rule we should have this procedure, let me call the attention of the House to a few considerations. I gather that he feels that imprisonment is not a punishment that can be inflicted without the power of revision by the House. How would that work in practice? Let us suppose for the sake of argument that a deplorable scene, similar to that of last Tuesday night, again took place. If this rule were passed, the Members who were guilty of taking part in that scene would be at once sent to prison. For the rest of the session the question would always be arising, Is the House to release them or is it not to release them? How is that question to be decided? Is any Member to have the power of raising the question when he likes as a question of privilege? Is it to be brought forward, let me say, by the hon. Member for Waterford whenever he thinks his friends have been sufficiently long in prison? Is he to have the right to say to the House that the sentence should be brought to an end? If it does not rest with individual Members, is it to rest with the Government? If it is to rest with the Government, I have to say to my noble friend that we cannot take upon ourselves this duty of considering and reconsidering how long the sentence ought to be of any Gentleman who has been imprisoned by the House. It is not a fair responsibility to put upon the Government. It is not a responsibility which, as part of the ordinary procedure, I should recommend the House to adopt, and it is inconsistent with the automatic and summary character of the whole of these proceedings. I therefore think that the machinery my noble friend proposes is open to the gravest objections. There is another objection. My noble friend regards imprisonment as a very severe punishment. I have known cases where a great deal of cheap martyrdom has been derived from imprisonment.

MR. DILLON: The Jameson case.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I have known cases where a great deal of cheap martyrdom was very easily obtained by confinement as a first-class misdemeanant, and of course it is only as a first-class misdemeanant that this House has the power to confine anybody. And there have been those who have been cynical enough to suggest that a time might come when, as part of a conspiracy to excite sympathy outside the walls of this House—outside, perhaps, even the four corners of the United Kingdom—there might be a scene got up within the precincts of the House. I cannot imagine, if such a scene were got up with this dramatic intention, how that intention could be more admirably fulfilled than by committing to prison as first-class misdemeanants those who took part in that conspiracy, let me say, for a week at the end of the session. I strongly urge my noble friend to consider whether his own view would be furthered were we to accept his Amendment. For my own part, I feel quite clear that the House, in adopting this rapid, ready system of administering justice and meting out punishment, would be very ill-advised if it were to inflict a sentence, possibly perfectly proper in itself, but which would only be proper after all the precautions of an elaborate trial. When I add to these considerations the fact that imprisonment itself may be a punishment more in appearance than in reality, and that it may call forth a stream of sympathy with the offender to which he is not entitled, I think all these considerations taken in their cumulative effect make a conclusive case against the proposal of my noble friend.

MR. ATHERLEY-JONES (Durham, N.W.): I cannot help feeling a certain measure of respect for the manner in which the noble Lord, a new Member of this House, has lectured this ancient assembly. The House of Commons has become democratised, and there are hon. Members in it of all classes. It is the fashion of the class to which the noble Lord belongs to speak in somewhat supercilious contempt of the democratised House of Commons. But the noble Lord will permit me to say that through the vast multiplicity and complexity of the duties of Parliament there has been a tendency in recent years to concentrate power in the hands of Ministers, and to trench on the reasonable rights of private Members. There is none the less growing up among Members—at any rate, among thoughtful Members—the opinion that the abstraction of the time of the House of Commons by the Government is approaching something of the nature of a public scandal, which will have to be resisted at no distant date by very definite action on the part of private Members. Although I have been fifteen years in the House, I have never ventured to touch on questions of procedure previously, because I thought that such matters should more properly be relegated to the care and discretion of the experienced and older Members.

I approach this subject with the greatest reluctance, but with reference to the Amendment of the noble Lord I may say at the outset that I do not think he has given due consideration to the practical effect of the operation of any such rule as he suggests. For my part, I believe with a distinguished Member of the Conservative party now gone—Sir Stafford Northcote—that the greatest security for the decorum and dignity of this House is the placing of the fullest responsibility on the Members of the House, and that the more you apply restrictions and punishments the greater will undoubtedly be the sense of weakened responsibility, and the greater the risk of confusion. Does the noble Lord really suppose that he is going to raise the standard of honour and dignity of this House, and increase the sense of self-respect of its Members, by keeping permanently—or more or less permanently—a considerable contingent of its Members in prison? The idea is as fantastic as it is absurd. Further, let me ask the noble Lord not to test this question by his own fastidious notions of what imprisonment may mean. Does he suppose that the Irish Members are likely to be deterred from doing what they believe, rightly or wrongly, to be their duty by imprisonment? On the contrary, it would be an additional incentive. It would not be from any desire for cheap martyrdom, as the First Lord of the Treasury cynically observed. It would be from a desire to show that they are willing, in spite of any dangers and penalties, to serve what they conceive to be the interests of their country. In conclusion, I desire to say that I have at heart, as much as any hon. Member opposite the maintenance of the decorum and dignity of this House. I will go further, and say that I believe that the bulk of the Irish Members have the honour and dignity of the House equally at heart. [Laughter.] Hon. Members may laugh, but I cannot forget—having been a long time in this House—that there was no man more jealous of maintaining proper discipline among the Irish party than the late Mr. Parnell. He resorted to obstruction, but never did he tolerate, encourage, or permit any deviation from the strict course of gentlemanly, honourable, and Parliamentary conduct. That is a view which I know will be shared by the older Members of the House. I consider that no greater stain or slur has, in my humble judgment, been ever inflicted on the House of Commons—and I fully associate myself with what has been said by the Leader of the Opposition on the subject—than when it was invaded, no doubt in obedience to proper authority, by the police. By all means maintain the dignity and prestige of this House; but I for one believe that that object can best be secured by increasing and not by diminishing the sense of individual responsibility.

LORD HUGH CECIL: I do not think this is an occasion on which I can usefully serve any purpose by dividing the House against the Government. I would therefore ask to be allowed to withdraw my Amendment. [Cries of "No."]

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: The noble Lord having introduced this startling proposition ought certainly to allow the Members of the House to have the advantage of discussing it at some reasonable length. The noble Lord seems to have been greatly influenced in his decision by the speech of his relative the First Lord of the Treasury. I am sure the right hon. Gentleman must wish that all his speeches would have an equally ready effect on all Members of the House. But as the noble Lord has been kind enough to propose that certain Irish Members should be sent to prison because they perform what they conceive to be their duty in this House, I think he will admit that it is reasonable that Irish Members should be allowed to say a few words on the subject. Personally I should not have intervened in the debate were it not for what I undoubtedly thought was a rather ill-natured remark which fell from the First Lord of the Treasury on the question of imprisonment. He spoke of having some knowledge of cases—where they occurred he did not say, but we all know where he was alluding to——

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Not in Ireland.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: The right hon. Gentleman now says that these cases were not in Ireland, and I am very glad to have that disclaimer, because I and a number of other Irish Members suffered imprisonment under the right hon. Gentleman's rule in Ireland, and the hard labour we had to perform, and the bread-and-water diet to which we were subjected, ought, at least, to have protected us from the cheap taunts of the right hon. Gentleman.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I was not thinking of anything that occurred in Ireland. The cases which I had in mind were not Irish but English cases, and cases of first-class misdemeanants.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: I at once accept the disclaimer of the right hon. Gentleman, but it does not altogether impress me, because the right hon. Gentleman knows what a number of Irish Members suffered in the way of imprisonment for doing what they considered to be their duty.

Now the noble Lord is really very hard to please. We know that the historical records of his noble house are stern and grim records in many respects, but surely he might have allowed the Irish Members to carry out what they conceive to be their duty in this House without subjecting them to imprisonment. What does the noble Lord mean? He belongs to a great family, which dominates every single great Department of the State—the Admiralty, the War Office, and the Foreign Office—and now it appears that nothing will satisfy him except to put everyone in prison who does not agree with him. All I can say is, that if this proposition is carried out it will not in the slightest degree deter any Irish Member from acting in the way he considers he ought to act, and further, I believe that there is not a single hon. Member in this House who imagines that there is any Irish Member who would be deterred by the paltry threat of a few months imprisonment from doing what he conceived to be his duty. A more outrageous and, at the same time, a more ludicrous proposal was never heard in this House. The noble Lord spoke at some length of public opinion and its effect on this House and on the House of Lords. I think his proposal to-night shows to some extent the state of abject panic into which public opinion in this country has allowed itself to drift in connection with the proceedings of Tuesday last. We hear of good feeling having been outraged, and of acts having been committed within the House which would not have been tolerated outside it. If illegal acts were committed by the Irish Members, it was to protest against what would be protested against by every portion of the community, against what I would call little short of the robbery of the taxpayers by imposing millions on millions of taxation at one sitting, without allowing a single representative from Ireland to say a word as to whether he thought that the taxation was to be expended justly or not. We are entitled also, in considering this Amendment, to consider the causes which led up to the scene which took place. I say that if a fair limit of time had been allowed for discussion no scene would have taken place, and I tell the noble Lord that there is no Legislature in Europe——

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The question betore the House is whether imprisonment should be ordered. The causes of the disorder last Tuesday cannot be gone into.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: I have no desire to stray in the slightest degree from what is appropriate to this Amendment, but I thought I was entitled to answer the noble Lord and the references he made. I will pass from the subject by saying that there is not one of these legislatures which would have tolerated the closure which took place in this House. The noble Lord referred at length to the House of Lords. Some hon. Members seemed to think that that was not altogether relevant to this Amendment, but I should think that on a question of imprisonment a reference to the House of Lords would be always quite in order, for it is a proposal that might be more reasonably looked for from the House of Lords than from the democratic House of Commons of Great Britain. The noble Lord has not gone far enough, and I submit to him that instead of withdrawing this Amendment he should do what I have no doubt he would like to do, what I have no doubt many Members opposite would like to do, and what I know their forefathers did in days gone by with the Irish people's representatives, and that is to cut this matter short by making a rule that hon. Members who may disobey under any circumstances shall be committed not to prison, but to the Tower of London and forthwith decapitated.

COLONEL NOLAN (Louth, S.) said that such an Amendment as they were now discussing should, he fancied, have come from those responsible for the conduct of the business of the House, and not from so close a connection of the head of the Government. The noble Lord who moved the Amendment was treading on somewhat dangerous ground. The hon. and gallant Member did not for a moment say that disobedience to the orders of the Chair was not a serious offence, but the punishment that had been proposed by the Government was political and it was very severe, for the suspension of a Member for possibly six months practically meant the disfranchisement of the constituency. But that was not a personal punishment. It was reserved for a near relative of the Prime Minister to propose for the first time in that House that a period of imprisonment should be given. He hoped that most of the hon. Members, even on the other side of the House, would not try to push their opponents too hard. He hoped they would not thirst for, he would not say the blood, but for the imprisonment of offending Members.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: Although the noble Lord the Member for Greenwich has asked leave to withdraw his Amendment, still he has presented an exceedingly grave issue to the House, and has done good service by proposing the Amendment. He is the only hon. Member who seems to appreciate in full the gravity of the situation. It is true that his view is different from that of his relative the First Lord of the Treasury. He proposes that the Member guilty of the offence should be punished; the Leader of the House proposes that the constituency should be punished. Of the two, I must say that I think the noble Lord the more logical. At the same time he has presented an exceedingly important issue, not merely to the House but to the country. The noble Lord says there is a decline in the influence and authority of the House of Commons. He might have gone further, and said that that decline was contemporaneous with the two Unionist Governments which have been in power. This is really a very important matter. I think the House of Commons will pause even at this hour and consider really whether either the noble Lord or the First Lord of the Treasury has hit upon the real cause. The noble Lord says that certain disorderly Members must be punished. He says that the Amendment proposed by the First Lord of the Treasury is inadequate. I say it is not merely inadequate, but it is absolutely irrelevant to the cause of the whole disturbance. Let me take the three cases instanced by the noble Lord, and they are most singular cases. The first case was the Education Bill. Let us examine that for a moment, and the House of Commons can easily discover who is at the bottom of this decline in its authority. What was done in the case of the Voluntary Schools Bill? A Bill was introduced of a most important character, which created a perfect revolution in the educational machinery of this country. It proposed to hand over to the ecclesiastical authorities the management of half the schools of the Kingdom, and what did the First Lord of the Treasury do? He came down and said he would carry the Bill. He would listen to no Amendment, not a single comma was to be disturbed. The House of Commons was not allowed to deliberate and criticise. It had nothing to do but to register the decision of the First Lord, who himself did not understand the Bill. All I can say is that this is reducing the business of this House to a farce.

*MR. SPEAKER: The noble Lord referred to two or three cases in which there was great feeling. That does not entitle the hon. Member to discuss the merits of the Bills.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: I was simply going to point out that the Amendment of the noble Lord had nothing whatever to do with the cause of disorder. The cause of disorder is not to be found in anything he referred to. The same thing applies to the Agricultural Rating Bill, which is another of the cases he referred to.

*MR. SPEAKER said it would not be in order to discuss the merits of the Bill.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: Then I shall be in the position of not being allowed to substantiate what I have stated. As long as it is perfectly understood that I shall not be in order in pursuing that matter, I shall not carry that further. There is the last illustration, which I think will be absolutely relevant. The noble Lord said they had there the gravest constitutional question of modern times, but there was no conflict with the authority of the Chair. The noble Lord has not acquainted himself with the history of that particular transaction. I have just been consulting *Hansard* about it. An order was given to clear the House for a division, which is exactly analogous to the present case—the very thing that has precipitated this rule. One Member—and I believe he is a Member who has to-night been denouncing the disorderly conduct of the Irish Members, who has been saying that they are not fit to be Members of the House, and should be expelled—turned round and said, "Do not let us go out," and stimulated his colleagues around him to acts of disorder. What happened in that case? After all, we are supposed to be here on a basis of equality, but I am not clear that it is anything beyond a mere supposition. There are hon. Members here from Ireland in a permanent minority, belonging to a different race, and with a different attitude towards the Imperial Parliament. They have not yet been reconciled to the Imperial Parliament. I think they represent a country which has suffered a good deal at the hands of the Imperial Parliament. That is acknowledged by both parties in the House. Nobody denies it, and both parties endeavour to effect a remedy, each in its own way. I say, in a case of that kind it is the business, and it ought to be the pleasure, of the Imperial Parliament to treat the Irish Members with even a greater amount of indulgence than Members belonging to other portions of the United Kingdom. But what happened in the case I am referring to, when English Tory Members of Parliament grossly and openly defied the Chair? No one got up and moved that Mr. So-and-So be named. The First Lord of the Treasury talks very solemnly to us about the dignity and honour of this House. Where was he then? He was present. Did he rebuke the Members? Did he get up and dissent——

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The hon. Gentleman is entirely misrepresenting history. He is not stating the facts.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: I beg the First Lord's pardon. I have been acquainting myself with the history within the last few minutes. I am simply giving a case which is strictly analogous—

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The hon. Gentleman is mistaken. I was not in the House; he says I was.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: This case——

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! There is an Amendment before the House, and this detailed discussion with regard to the Home Rule Bill is not in order.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: I am sorry if in replying to the First Lord's observations I was disorderly, but I think I am entitled to reply to the challenge of the noble Lord to Members on this side of the House by that precedent. He says, "This is how we conducted ourselves."

LORD HUGH CECIL: My argument was that no one was suspended.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: That is exactly my point. The only difference between the two cases is that nobody interferes with English Tory Members; they are not punished; but the First Lord makes them Ministers at the first opportunity. More than that, there was not a single Irish Member sitting here on Tuesday night who offered violence to anybody. But in this other case the Member for Fulham did that.

A LORD OF THE TREASURY (MR. HAYES FISHER, Fulham): I hope the hon. Member will make some approach to accuracy. I altogether deny that I offered any violence to any Member—[AN HON. MEMBER: We saw you.]—until the hon. Member for the Harborough Division came across the floor of the House and made an attack upon me.

*MR. SPEAKER: Anything that took place between the hon. Member for Fulham and the hon. Member for the Harborough Division is surely not germane to the point under discussion.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: Of course I am sorry if I have travelled beyond the point of issue, but I have not travelled an inch beyond the precedent set me by the noble Lord, and, in justice to an absent man who is at present ill, I think I ought to be allowed to say that the hon. Member for the Harborough Division was not guilty of touching the hon. Member for Fulham.

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! Whether the hon. Member for Fulham or the hon. Member for the Harborough Division was the more to blame in a transaction which took place in 1893 has nothing to do with the matter under discussion.

MR. LLOYD GEORGE: All I say is that I congratulate the First Lord of the Treasury, who moves this amended resolution and approves of the speech but not the Amendment of the noble Lord, that he has selected as one of those responsible for maintaining discipline in his party the hon. Member for Fulham. There is no reason why the noble Lord the Member for Greenwich should be ashamed of his Amendment; he has presented the case fairly between the two parties in the House; he resorts to the good old Tory principle that punitive measures are the only ones with which to deal with cases of this kind. We say that you ought to get at the root of the difficulty, and deal with that. The worst thing you can do is to peddle with these little Amendments of the Standing Orders instead of dealing with the real evil itself. The fact of the matter is this: You will effect nothing by this Amendment of the Standing Order. You have got to deal with the real difficulty, and that is that you are governing a nation against its will. The First Lord has referred to the precedents that occurred during the last five years. But he knows very well that during that time there was no real Opposition, and the precedents that then occurred are of no use at all. We have now from Ireland a resuscitation of the Nationalist movement, and what has disturbed the House is, if I may say so, the reappearance of the Irish banshee in its midst. We have here a motion for imprisoning the Irish Members for protesting against the mismanagement of the business of the House by the First Lord of the Treasury, and for standing up for the rights of their constituents. We are engaged in crushing out a nationality 6,000 miles away, and imagine that we are going to do it in a few weeks; but here we have a nation which has for 700 years protested against your rule.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR (Liverpool, Scotland): The speech of the noble Lord excited in me feelings of astonishment and of indignation. He and others have spoken of the degradation of this House and the gradual diminution of its authority. I accept the statement as accurately describing the feeling of the world outside this Assembly. This degradation was partly or largely caused, at least for the moment, by the action of some of my hon. friends the Members from Ireland, and the House has now for nearly an hour and a half, with the sanction and approval of the Leader of the House, as the guardian of its honour and dignity, been discussing the question whether or not the right of Members to exercise their duties in this House should subject them to imprisonment. Talk of the degradation of Parliament, when the son of the Prime Minister —not a young and untried man from Ireland, but a Member of this House for years—has the courage, I use the word "courage" because I wish to be polite, to come here and declare that a Member of this House because of his nationality should be subject to imprisonment because he protests against what he considers to be a wrong done to his country! I say because of his nationality, because some of those who are to night the loudest advocates of order and dignity did exactly the same thing as the Irish Members did on Tuesday night, with this difference, that they were rewarded by office, while the Irish Members were turned out of the House. Did I not see the hon. Member for Fulham sit in his seat for twenty or thirty minutes absolutely declining to leave the House or join in the division, shouting and howling at the then Chairman of Committees, and defying his authority? Yet he was never suspended even for one hour. I am not saying this in any spirit of rancour or bitter recollection; the hon. Member was suffering from strong political excitement—

MR. HAYES FISHER: So also was the hon. Member himself; He shouted out "Judas Iscariot!"

MR. JOHN BURNS (Battersea): But he did not get the thirty pieces of silver.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR: I should have thought that tenderness for the political reputation and susceptibilities of one of his most illustrious colleagues would have suggested to the hon. Member that it would be just as well not to remind the House of that. But I do not find fault with hon. Members because under violent political excitement they took strong action. I do not think the worse of any man who holds strong opinions and who, when he considers those opinions are not fairly treated, expresses his views in strong words. My complaint is that because they were Englishmen they were permitted to do these acts of violence and grave political disorder without even rebuke from their own leaders or from the great and distinguished man who held the chair in the House. They escaped all blame whatever. The Speaker and that great Leader of the House (Mr. Gladstone) took what I believe was the right attitude, namely, they turned something of a deaf ear and a blind eye in that time of grave political excitement, instead of degrading the House as it never was degraded before, by the introduction of police within the walls of this Chamber.

MR. SPEAKER: If the hon. Member desires to blame my conduct he must do it by a substantive motion. The hon. Member is now attacking the Chair in the most unjustifiable manner.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR: In obedience to your ruling, which in the interests of Ireland I think it always right to obey, I will not pursue that line of argument further; but I trust I may address the Leader of the House, and contrast him with the Leader of the House at the time to which I was referring. The then Leader of the House, who was always in his place, and in that way was always able to keep order and good repute, let the incident pass, and the result was the violence and high feeling were forgotten in a few days. Therefore I have justified my statement which I made in the case of the noble Lord that his Amendment is for the purpose of imprisoning Members of this House because of their nationality, and not for any other purpose.

The Leader of the House made a speech in reply to the speech of the noble Lord. I do not wish to suggest to the First Lord of the Treasury the manner in which he should discharge his duties on an occasion like this, but to treat seriously this monstrous proposition, this gross outrage upon the dignity and honour of this House, as if it were a serious proposition; to discuss for twenty-five minutes a proposal that Members should be imprisoned because they are Irishmen; to treat a speech and an Amendment like that seriously, is a reflection upon the dignity and the honour of the House. The noble Lord the Member for Greenwich makes his speeches in good taste as a rule, but to-night he has made an almost impudent motion. The right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the House has spoken of the cheap martyrdom of imprisonment, but I will tell the House what I think of this proposal. The noble Lord says that one of the reasons why the authority of the House is going down is because the power is passing from the House to the Cabinet, and that is one of the reasons why the authority of the House is going down. I quite acknowledge that the repute of this House is going down in the eyes of the country. It will go down further if it is to be the duty of the House simply to register the decrees of Ministers without debate—to neglect and forego the greatest of all its duties, namely, the careful scrutiny and criticism of the expenditure of the country and its various departments. The noble Lord says the power is passing into the hands of the Cabinet. That is a very serious statement considering the composition of the Cabinet. What does it mean? The Cabinet consists practically of members of one family, and everybody knows that every family in the history of the world is governed by the Benjamin of the family. And therefore, as the House will plainly see, what the noble Lord, this young Cromwell, really has in his mind is that the one true remedy for the salvation of the House, for the restoration of its repute, its honour, and its dignity, is to entrust the liberties of the Irish Members to the youngest son of the noble house of Cecil.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, nil; Noes, 426. (Division List No. 44.)

AYES.—*Nil.*

NOES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Aird, Sir John
Allen, C. P. (Glouc., Stroud)
Allhusen, Augustus H. Eden
Ambrose, Robert
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright. John Stanhope
Arrol, Sir William
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert H.
Atherley, Jones L.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George A.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds
Balfour, Maj. KR (Christchurch
Banbury, Frederick George
Bartley, George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen B.
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Beckett, Ernest William
Bell, Richard
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Black, Alexander William
Blake, Edward
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boland, John
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex)
Boyles, James
Brand, Hon. Arthur G.
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brown, Alexander H. (Shropsh.
Brown, George M. (Edinburgh)
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Bull, William James
Bullard, Sir Harry
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, John
Butcher, John George
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caine, William Sproston
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carew, James Laurence
Carlile, William Walter
Carvill, Patrick Geo. Hamilton
Causton, Richard Knight
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)

Cawley, Frederick
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlain,Rt.Hn.J.(Birm.)
Chamberlain,J.Austen(Worc'r
Channing, Francis Allston
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Cochrane, Hn. Thos. H. A. E.
Cogan, Denis J.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb,SirJohnCharlesReady
Colville, John
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cook, Frederick Lucas
Corbett, A Cameron(Glasgow)
Craig, Robert Hunter
Cranborne, Viscount
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies,Sir HorarioD(Chatham
Davies,M.Vaughan-(Cardigan
Delany, William
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dimsdale; SirJosephCockfield
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dixon-Hartland,Sir Fd.Dixon
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Doxford,SirWilliam Theodore
Duffy, William J.
Duke, Henry Edward
Duncan, James H.
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Dyke,Rt.Hn.Sir WilliamHart
Edwards, Frank
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Elibank, Master of
Elliot, Hon. A. RalphDouglas
Ellis, John Edward
Emmott, Alfred
Evans,Samuel T.(Glamorgan)
Faber, George Denison
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Farrell, James Patrick
Fellowes,Hon.AilwynEdward
Ferguson, R. C. Munro(Leith)
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
Fitzroy, Hn.EdwardAlgernon
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Flower, Ernest
Flynn, James Christopher
Forster, Henry William
Foster,Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fuller, J. M. F.
Garfit, William
Gibbs,Hn.A.G.H(CityofLond.
Gibbs,Hon.Vicary(St.Albans)
Gladstone,Rt.HnHerbertJohn
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Godson,SirAugustusFrederick
Gordon,Hn.J.E.(Elgin&Nairn
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)
Gordon,MajEvans-(T'rH'ml'ts

Gore, Hon. F. S. Ormsby-
Goschen, Hon.GeorgeJoachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Grant, Corrie
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Green, WalfordD.(Wed'sbury
Greene,SirEW(B'rySEdm'nds
Grenfell, William Henry
Gretton, John
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Griffith, Ellis J.
Groves, James Grimble
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hall, Edward Marshall
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton,RtHnLordG (Mid'x
Hamilton,Marqof(L'nd'nderry
Hammond, John
Hardie,J Keir(MerthyrTydvil
Hardy,Laurence (Kent,Ashf'd
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harrington, Timothy
Harris, F.Leverton(Tynem'th
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne,Rt.Hon.Charles Seale-
Hayter, Rt Hn. Sir Arthur D.
Heath,ArthurHoward(Hanley
Heath,James (Staffords,N.W.
Heaton, John Henniker
Helder, Augustus
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Alexander
Hermon-Hodge, Robt. Trotter
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hoare, Edw.Brodie(Hampstd.
Hobhouse,C. E. H.(Bristol,E.)
Hobhouse, Henry(Somerset,E.
Hope,J.F.(Sheffield,Brightside
Horniman, Frederick John
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Hoult, Joseph
Howard,Cpt.J.(Kent,Faversh.
Howard,J.(Midd.,Tottenham)
Hozier,Hon.JamesHenryCecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hughes, Colonel Edwin
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Hutton, John (Yorks, N.R.)
Jackson,Rt.Hon. Wm. Lawies
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Jessel,CaptianHerbertMerton
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Joicey, Sir James
Jones,DavidBrynmor(Sw'nsea
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennedy, Patrick James
Kenyon,Hon.Geo.T.(Denbigh
Kenyon, James (Lancs., Bury)
Kenyon-Slaney,Col.W.(Salop.
Keswick, William
Kimber, Henry
Kitson, Sir James
Knowles, Lees

Labouchere, Henry
Lambert, George
Lambton,Hon.Frederick Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawrence, William F.
Lawson, John Grant
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lecky,Rt.Hn.WilliamEdw. H
Lee,CaptA.H.(Hants.Fareh'm
Leese,SirJosephF.(Accrington
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leng, Sir John
Leveson-Gower, Fred. N.S.
Lloyd-George, David
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long,Col.CharlesW.(Evesham
Long,Rt.Hn.Walter(Bristol,S)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lough, Thomas
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas,Col. Francis(Lowestoft)
Lucas, Reginald J.(Portsm'th)
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macartney,RtHnW.G.Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverp'l)
M'Arthur, William (Cornw'll)
M'Calmont, Col.J.(Antrim,E.
M'Crae, George
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (Edinb., W.
M'Killop, Jas. (Stirlingshire)
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Massey-Mainwaring, Hn W.F
Mather, William
Maxwell,RtHnSirHE (Wigt'n
Maxwell, W.J.H(Dumfreissh.
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Middlemore,JohnThrogm'rt'n.
Milton, Viscount
Milward, Colonel Victor
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Mooney, John J.
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
More,Robert Jasper (Shropsh.)
Morgan, David J.(Walthamst.
Morley, Charles (Breconshire)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton,Arthur H.A.(Deptf'd)
Morton, Edw.J.C. (Devonport
Moulton, John Fletcher
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Muntz, Philip A.
Murphy, J.
Murray,RtHnA.Graham(Bute
Murray, Chas. J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Newdigate, FrancisAlexander

Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Nolan, Col. John F. (Galway, N.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipp'r'ry, Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S,)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, Jas. (Roscommon, N.
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Parker, Gilbert
Parkes, Ebenezer
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, Herb. Pike (Darlington
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Perks, Robert William
Pilkington, Richard
Pirie, Duncan V.
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Power, Patrick Joseph
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Reid, James (Greenock)
Renshaw, Charles Bine
Rentoul, James Alexander
Renwick, George
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridley, HnM. W. (Stalybridge)
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Roche, John
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Ropner, Col. Robert
Round, James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W.
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Sandys, Lt.-Col. Thos. Myles
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Saunderson, Rt. Hon. Col. E. J.
Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
Seton-Karr, Henry
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick, B.)
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (Renfrew
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire)
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, E.)
Smith, James P. (Lanarks.)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer, Rt. Hn. C. R (North'nts
Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
Stanley, Edward J. (Somerset
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Stock, James Henry
Stroyan, John
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Sullivan, Donal
Talbot, Lord E. (Colchester)
Talbot, Rt. H'n. J. G. (Oxf'd Uni.
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
Thomas, F. Freeman-(Hastings
Thomson, F. W. (York, W.R.
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomkinson, James
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Tufnell, Col. Edward
Valentia, Viscount
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Wason, John C. (Orkney)
Webb, Col. William George
Weir, James Galloway
Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E. (T'nton
Welby, Sir Chas. G. E. (Notts.
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset)
Williams, Rt. HnJ Powell-(Bir.
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wills, Sir Frederick
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.
Woodhouse, Sir J T (Huddersf'd
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Commander (Berks, E.
Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

MR. LABOUCHERE (Northampton): I really wonder that the right hon. Gentleman, with his intelligence, should have wasted so much of the time of the House. As a matter of fact, the right hon. Gentleman brought on this change in the Standing Order because certain of our hon. friends resented the action of the Government, and under circumstances of great irritation insisted on remaining in the House after you, Sir, had ordered them to divide. But has it not occurred to the right hon. Gentleman the First Lord of the Treasury that there is no earthly reason why Members should not sit here while a division is going forward? Does the First Lord of the Treasury think that the rule to oblige Members to clear out of the House into the lobby is of ancient order? It was only by a decision of Mr. Speaker Brand that it commenced; there is no Standing Order to that effect, and all that Mr. Speaker Brand's decision has done has been to keep us from coming into the House. Sometimes we find ourselves in the House, and we have to decide whether we shall vote aye or no, and, for my part, on one occasion I had the privilege of voting with my right hon. friend, although I had the very strongest objection to going into the Conservative lobby.

My suggestion is that the right hon. Gentleman the First Lord of the Treasury should now follow the example of his noble relative, and so far from anyone opposing such a proceeding, we shall all accept it with pleasure. If he were to do that, and bring in later a resolution that Members who happened to be in the House when a division is called may remain in the House, then that matter might be discussed. Why, Sir, I remember an occasion in the time of Mr. Speaker Peel when the Colonial Secretary remained in the House. At the time of the division the Colonial Secretary had disappeared, nobody could find him, and he did not take part in the division; but directly after the division he appeared again. As a matter of fact, the right hon. Gentleman was in the precincts of the House when the doors were locked, and was in the same illegal position as certain hon. Members upon the benches behind me were on Tuesday night. He was behind your chair, and in the same way, on Tuesday, hon. Members would very likely have disappeared if they had known where to go. I suggest that the right hon. Gentleman should put an end to this difficulty, and put an end to the clearing of the House when a division is going on. If the right hon. Gentleman does not take that course we ought to look upon this matter as one in which the offence which was committed by the Irish Members has been committed by English Members over and over again. This is making a racial question of it. I do not for a moment wish to minimise their dereliction from the rules of the House, and I do not wish to excuse it. Hon. Gentlemen opposite, no doubt, find themselves in a difficulty in this matter. We as Members here owe allegiance to the House, and as Members we are bound to obey you, Sir; but we owe allegiance also to our constituencies, and when one allegiance conflicts with the other we are in a difficult position. We must recollect that on Tuesday night those hon. Members who violated the rules of the House, at the same time considered they were unjustly treated and were not given the full opportunity, which they claimed and had a right to as representatives of large constituencies in Ireland, to discuss the Vote. I do not defend their action. What I do say is, that the right hon. Gentleman the First Lord of the Treasury does not understand the true cause of this crisis. If you sit day after day upon the safety valve of a machine the machine will finally explode, and that is exactly what the right hon. Gentleman has done here. Day by day he takes privilege after privilege. Only last week he took away a great privilege in connection with Ways and Means, so that after a few hours discussion on education all these Votes were passed without any discussion whatever. Had the right hon. Gentleman wished to consult our views he would have got up shortly after dinner and said that we had had an interesting discussion on education, but there were other Votes to be disposed of, and suggested that the discussion upon education should have been brought to an end. Had he done that, no doubt hon. Members would have assisted him, but the closure was moved upon this matter after all the time had been consumed by the Education Vote, and no discussion whatever had taken place on the many other matters included in the Estimate. I was shut out, as a matter of fact. I had gone home in the belief that the sitting would be adjourned; otherwise I should have remained here, for I had intended to move an Amendment that the Vote should be reduced by half.

I gather that the right hon. Gentleman is not going to take my advice, and therefore I beg leave to move the Amendment to leave out the words, "during the remainder of the session," and insert in their place, "for two months." The right hon. Gentleman does not appear to quite realise what a session may be. A session may extend over a year, and it does seem a very hard thing that because an hon. Gentleman violates the rules of the House his constituents are to be disfranchised for over a year. It is a monstrous proposition. You have at the present time a punishment. If a Member of this House does not obey your ruling he may be suspended for one week, or two weeks, or a month. I was suspended myself, curiously enough, on one occasion for a short period; but if I had been suspended for two years it would have been a very different thing. See how it would operate. Supposing the hon. Member for Westminster, one of whose constituents I happen to be, comes up and refuses to obey your ruling and gets suspended for two years, why should I, as his constituent, be disfranchised? because, after all, he may be a useful Member. I give that as an instance, and I suggest that the suspension should be for two months, which I think is far more reasonable than the proposal of the right hon. Gentleman. We have in all these matters borne very patiently the alterations in, and Amendments to, Rule 27, The first step was taken some time ago. We are now asked to go a step further, but if we are to have such a resolution as that which the House is now discussing, let us have it by degrees. Let us have the two months suspension first. Why do you take the entire session? I cannot understand your doing so. Look at the position of the Irish Members here. Do you suppose if all the Irish Members refused to-morrow to go out of the House into the division lobbies anything would be gained by such a resolution as this? There could be nothing more dangerous or more serious or far reaching in its consequences than Ireland being practically unrepresented in this House—her Members suspended going over and agitating in Ireland, holding conventions, and saying "We cannot represent you in England for they suspend us and will not let us speak." Having regard to the peculiar relations existing between this country and Ireland, I urge the Government, I urge hon. Gentlemen opposite, to support me in this Amendment to reduce the suspension for two months instead of the rest of the session.

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment, as amended—

"In line 7, to leave out the words 'during the remainder of the session,' in order to add the words 'for two months.'"—(*Mr. Labouchere*).

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the proposed Amendment, as amended."

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR : I do not think the Amendment of the hon. Member has been supported by his arguments, and I cannot accept it.

Mr. T. P. O'CONNOR said the important point to look at in the subject under discussion was upon whom the punishment fell. In this case the punishment fell not upon the Member, but upon the constituents he represented in the House, because if a Member of the House disobeyed the order and was suspended his constituents would be without a representative in the House. Now a constituency had a right to a representative in this House, and to take away that representative for an unlimited period by the suspension of the Member whom they had sent to Parliament, would be a very flagrant scandal. No doubt many Members on the Government side of the House were foolish enough to believe that it would be better to have no Irish constituency represented, but if this rule were carried he might point out that there would be this danger. If an hon. Member was suspended for such a period as the rest of the session it would be his duty not to allow his constituents to be unrepresented, and he would take such steps by applying for the Stewardship of the Chiltern Hundreds so as to ensure that his constituency should be represented, if not by him by somebody else. He thought, under the circumstances, it would be very unwise for the right hon. Gentleman to press for the rule.

Mr. PIRIE (Aberdeen, N.) did not desire at this late hour of the night to take up the time of the House, but at the same time thought that the subject under discussion was sufficient to justify all the attention that could be given to it. What hon. Members felt who supported the Amendment was that the proposal of the Government was too severe to deal with such offences as had given rise to its being brought forward. He would be the very last person to defend what had occurred on the previous Tuesday. The ruling of the Chair must be obeyed, but at the same time he could see that in that case there were many extenuating circumstances. One of the greatest dangers that the House had to face at the present moment was the constant misrepresentations which were made in the Press and, incidentally, the mischief it did in the country by engendering false ideas of what was done in the House. In order to point out how the proposals of the Government were too severe on this occasion he would deal with what he considered the extenuating circumstances, and show why the Amendment of the hon. Member for Northampton was quite sufficient to meet the justice of the case. He attributed the outbreak which took place on Tuesday night, not so much to what actually occurred on that evening to bring it about, as to a system which was calculated to bring about such a lamentable occurrence at any time. The opinion held by hon. Members sitting around him was that two months suspension would be quite sufficient to meet the necessities of the case. They looked with dismay on the possibility of a penalty which would disfranchise constituencies for a whole session. They considered that the policy which should be adopted in a case of this sort should be one more of conciliation than of severe treatment and punishment. If there was a revolt or a revolution against a system of Government, it was clear that injustice must have been originally at the bottom of it. He warmly supported the Amendment of his hon. friend the Member for Northampton. He would not vote against the Amendment of the Government, but would abstain from voting on the main question, because he did not wish it to be imagined that he impugned the authority of the Chair.

MR. CAINE (Cornwall, Camborne): It appears to me that it would be wise for the Leader of the House to accept the Amendment, especially if he wants to impose an effective punishment. I am quite certain that under the Amendment proposed by the Leader of the House the punishment would be very small indeed. We all know quite well the hon. Members at whom it is aimed. They come from constituencies where there were not contested elections. What would be the result of this new Standing Order? We will suppose that some scene occurs similar to that which took place the other night, and that a dozen Members come under the rule. They are suspended for the remainder of the session. They would accept the Chiltern Hundreds, they would go back to their constituencies, and they would be immediately re-elected. What would be the position of the hon. Members when they came back? Would they be allowed to take their seats? I do not believe anyone would venture to contest their election. The punishment, therefore, would be extremely slight. I sincerely trust that we may now adjourn the debate in order to give reasonable time for the consideration of the rule. I cannot vote at all on this Amendment, and yet I would like to vote upon it. There is nothing I dislike more than to leave the House without voting. I move the adjournment of the debate.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the debate be now adjourned."—(*Mr. Caine.*)

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: We have had very ample discussion of the motion. I hope the hon. Gentleman will not persist in his motion for the adjournment.

MR. CAINE: The reason why I moved the adjournment was that we may have time to consider the Amendment as amended.

MR. LOUGH: The right hon. Gentleman will admit that we on this side have addressed ourselves to the debate in a very praiseworthy and industrious spirit. I would point out to the right hon. Gentleman that two hours have been wasted in a perfectly futile and meaningless Amendment moved on the other side of the House. It was a shocking proceeding; I might almost say, I have never seen it equalled in the House. The noble Lord who moved it had not the courage to vote for his own Amendment. ["Oh, oh!"] I am afraid I am introducing a little heat, and I do not want to do that. I wish to make a reasonable appeal to the right hon. Gentleman. I think we might have another day to discuss the subject. There is no urgency about the matter at all. By accepting this proposal the right hon. Gentleman will, on the whole, lose no time, and he will do something to allay the bad temper which has been aroused.

MR. BROADHURST: May I join in the appeal to the First Lord of the Treasury? He dismissed the question as to whether the suspension should be for two or six months in the most airy manner. We have sat here now for something like eleven hours continuously, and that is more than any hon. Member ought to be called upon to do. I do say that it is most unseemly that at this hour of the morning [2.10] the House should be called upon to continue the consideration of a subject of this importance. We have certainly not had time to realise the importance of the Amendments that have been introduced. I support the motion for the adjournment of the debate, and I hope the First

Lord of the Treasury will see how reasonable it is both in the interest of himself and Members who are exhausted.

MR. DILLON: I agree with the noble Lord the Member for Greenwich that the matter which the House has been discussing to-night is of infinitely greater importance than hon. Members have any idea of. It occurs to me that the noble Lord, although not very successful with his Amendment, was the first Member who really placed this question in its true light before the House as regards its importance, because up to the time he spoke the subject had been treated in a light and airy fashion as if it were only a matter, if I may use the expression, of hammering the Irish Members. It is a very large question. I think this question affects the very essence of the power and prestige of this House, and it is of vastly greater importance than hon. Members appear to understand, because it is only a step on the road. You are only taking the first step to-night. Whatever other qualification I may have I can speak of this. I do not suppose there is a man in the House who has greater experience of this than I have, and I warn the First Lord of the Treasury and the Members of the House that this rule will do no good. It will be ineffective, and you will be called upon to take another step. The question has been discussed by us reasonably and with application to the point. The only time that has been wasted was that taken by the noble Lord in moving a bogus Amendment and by the First Lord in delivering a prolonged eulogium on the noble Lord's speech, whereas those of us who are defending our rights have addressed ourselves strictly to the matter under discussion throughout the evening. I myself have a further very important and eminently reasonable Amendment to propose later on, and it is not fair to ask us to go on with this discussion at two o'clock in the morning.

MR. O'MARA (Kilkenny, S.): As one who was concerned in and associated myself with the protest made the other night against the use of the closure, I wish to urge the House to vote for the adjournment. This matter has been altogether too hurried. Before the passions which were aroused on Tuesday night have been given an opportunity to cool, this matter has been brought before the House and is being forced through without adequate discussion. I am an entirely new Member, but I must say that the way the procedure of the House and the closure are used to force matters through has surprised me. I did not come here to do penance for the occurrences of Tuesday night, but in the heat of the moment——

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! I must remind the hon. Member that the only question before the House is the motion for adjournment.

MR. O'MARA: I am merely explaining how this method of forcing business through the House strikes a new Member. We have a right to discuss these matters fully and entirely, and we are going to avail ourselves of that right, but I protest against having to discuss them at two o'clock in the morning. My past life has not fitted me to be here considering such questions at this hour. These coercive measures are the only measures we get from the Treasury Bench, and I rise merely to suggest that time should be given us to collect our thoughts and to allow the angry passions aroused by Tuesday night's proceedings to cool down.

MR. TULLY: I think one of the reasons why the adjournment should be granted is that so few Irish Members have spoken in the course of the debate. This is a measure aimed directly at the Irish representatives, and those whose rights are imperilled ought certainly to have an opportunity to discuss the matter thoroughly. We want to know how this rule would apply in the case of an hon. Member who, if he were expelled from the House for the remainder of the session, resigned his seat. That point ought to be considered by the right hon. Gentleman.

*MR. SPEAKER: That point does not arise on the adjournment.

MR. TULLY: I am only giving reasons for the adjournment.

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member might claim to argue every Amendment and every line of the Amendment upon that ground.

MR. TULLY: Well, Sir, I think we on these benches have not been treated fairly as so very few of us have spoken, and the First Lord ought to accept this motion.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON (Tower Hamlets, Poplar): It seems to me, personally, that this motion is a reasonable one under the circumstances. I shall vote for the Amendment of the Government when it is finally put, but I think the House ought to recollect that this Notice appeared on the Paper only this morning. It is a very important motion, affecting every Member of the House. We have considered it, as I think the right hon. Gentleman will admit, with good temper and without any attempt at obstruction or improper discussion, and the speeches have not, at all events, been confined to this side of the House. Seeing that we had not seen the rule in print until this morning, and that in the course of the debate certain Amendments have been accepted, so that it is now in a different form from that in which we have it on the Paper, I think a reasonable compromise, and one which I venture to suggest, would be that we should dispose of the Amendments to-night, and then have the motion reprinted for some future occasion. We should then be able to judge more properly whether the rule as amended required any further alteration, or whether it could be accepted as it then stood.

MR. DALZIEL: In consequence of this motion appearing on the Paper only this morning, we have been unable to put down any Amendments, and consequently we have had to move Amendments without notice, which have been very difficult to understand. This is a very important alteration in the rules governing the procedure of the House, and we ought certainly to see the resolution in print as it is proposed to be adopted before we give our final vote upon it. That surely is a very moderate demand to make. At the same time I would point out that by suspending the Twelve o'clock Rule the House did not necessarily commit itself to an all-night sitting. The interpretation of such a suspension has always been that about half-past one or two o'clock the House should review the situation according to the circumstances of the case. Suppose we agree to divide upon the Amendment which has been moved and then adjourn. To-morrow the Army statement is the first Order. In the ordinary course of things that would be over before dinner. This motion could be put down as second Order, and we should then have an opportunity of calmly reviewing the whole question. Another course would be to dispose of the Amendment now before the House, and put the motion down as first Order to-morrow, with the understanding that it shall be disposed of before dinner. I imagine the former would be the better alternative for the right hon. Gentleman, and without delaying the House further, I hope he will see that there is at any rate a strong case for full consideration before this alteration is finally adopted.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: I think the suggestion is a reasonable one, and I would suggest to the right hon. Gentleman that he should favourably consider it. I do not think that the right hon. Gentleman can seriously desire to force this rule through at one sitting by the use of the closure. When this rule was originally proposed in its modified form in the year 1880 it took several days to pass. In the year 1882, when it was extended not nearly so much as it is now proposed, it took several days discussion. If the right hon. Gentleman desires that any real moral weight should attach to the decision of the House he would be wise, I think, to accede to the proposal which has been made by the hon. Member for Kirkcaldy. What is that proposal? It is not that he should give us a complete Parliamentary day for the purpose of this discussion, but it is that after the Secretary of State for War has made his statement and unfolded his scheme to-morrow, and after the debate upon that subject is adjourned the remainder of the day should be voted to finishing the discussion on this matter. That is not a large claim to make, and as it affects the business of the House so little, I suggest that it would be a wise thing for him to accept that suggestion and agree now to the adjournment of the debate on the understanding that it can be taken up to-morrow after the Army debate has been adjourned.

SIR JOHN BRUNNER (Cheshire, Northwich): I hope the right hon. Gentleman will accede to this appeal which has been made to him, and I think he ought to do so when he reflects that the original piece of work which he put before the House is now almost unrecognisable. I have some further criticisms to offer to the House on the Amendment as it stands now, and I can assure the right hon. Gentleman that my criticisms will not be directed towards defeating the object of this Amendment, but will be in favour of making the new Standing Order a better piece of workmanship, and I would recommend the right hon. Gentleman in the interval to consult with his friendly opponents on this side of the House in order that we may come to some friendly understanding. I think I may promise the right hon. Gentleman that my right hon. friend the Leader of the Opposition will be willing to take part in a friendly discussion, and if this course is adopted we may arrive at an improvement upon the Amendment as it now stands. I do desire that this Standing Order shall reflect the care and wise thought of this House, and that no Order shall be put upon our books in haste.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: A large number of hon. Members have appealed to me to adjourn this debate, but I think that in one respect they have treated me rather ungratefully. I have accepted their Amendments, and now they are using that as a reason for adjourning the debate by saying that they wish to see the rule printed. It is perfectly true that Amendments have been accepted, but I think it is impossible to consider this rule in isolation from the general condition of business before the House. If I could consider it in isolation I shou'd be glad to meet the wishes of hon. Members, whether they agree with me or not. The hon. Member for Kirkcaldy threw out a suggestion that we should take it after the statement of the Secretary for War to-morrow. I suppose that my right hon. friend's statement will be opened early in the evening, and if the House can come to some arrangement by which we can be assured of a substantial amount of Supply to-morrow I shall be willing to make the sacrifice. I see that the hon. Member for Waterford smiles at that.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: My smile means that if the right hon. Gentleman desires to facilitate the business of Supply the best way to do it would be to try and conciliate hon. Members by making a reasonable concession such as we ask.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I am always desirous of being as conciliatory as possible, but Supply must be got through. I believe there are eighteen Votes to be got through, and unless I can get a satisfactory assurance that substantial progress will be made with the Estimates I am afraid we must proceed with the debate. I hope hon. Gentlemen will not think that I have approached this question in any tyrannical spirit, but the reason is that we have to absolutely get through the Estimates by a certain day.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: Unfortunately the Civil Service Estimates, to which the First Lord of the Treasury referred, are of considerable importance, and I should say that it is very difficult to enter into any sort of arrangement regarding them. They include such subjects as Uganda, Ashanti, business in South Africa, and other matters of very considerable importance, and I do not think it will be a good thing to enter into an arrangement to burke discussion on South Africa. It would be an exceedingly bad arrangement, and there has been really too much of that sort of thing. I think the First Lord of the Treasury should consider this on its merits. Here we are discussing an Amendment of our procedure of the most vital importance. We have only got to interpret it with what has happened this week in order to see its importance. If this rule had been in operation last Tuesday twelve constituencies would now have been disfranchised for the rest of the session, and such a proposal is to be rushed through after only twenty-four hours notice, before there is a full opportunity to discuss it. This is perfectly unprecedented. I should have thought that two sittings of the House would not have been too much for a matter of this kind, and I do ask the right hon. Gentleman to consider this matter on its merits. We have still one Amendment not disposed of, and some other Amendments have to be moved.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: It would be very difficult for anyone to give a pledge as to what would take place to-morrow. I think we all recognise in the right hon. Gentleman's last observations a most reasonable spirit, and, before speaking of what may happen on other days, I would venture to press very strongly upon him that whatever we may say of this new Order I do not think anyone who is interested in, and who has the good feeling of the House at heart, can contemplate very pleasantly the hurrying through of this proposal in an all-night sitting. I do not think that any time has been wasted upon it except a certain waste of time for which those on this side of the House have not been responsible. I never knew a more unnecessary expenditure of time than that which was devoted to the Amendment of the noble Lord the Member for Greenwich. I think the whole of that episode was so much lost time. Therefore, I think we have a strong claim upon the Government for a postponement of this debate. As to-morrow is a nondescript day, with nothing definitely announced for it after the statement by the Secretary of State for War, I should have thought that the remainder of the day might be taken up by resuming the debate upon this rule. I do hope that the right hon. Gentleman will be able to come to an arrangement of that sort, and I can assure him that I shall use every influence I possess, if he agrees to this course, to keep the discussion of the various topics within reasonable limits, and I do not think I can do any more.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I quite admit that it is a disagreeable thing to have to do business in these hours of the morning, but business must be done even in these hours in order that the necessary financial business may be finished before 31st March. Of course if hon. Members will consent to make some arrangement of a definite character in regard to the business to-morrow I would be disposed to adjourn the debate.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: The only arrangement that can be made is that suggested by the hon. Member for Kirkcaldy; and that is that after the Secretary for War makes his statement to-morrow the debate should be adjourned, and the rest of the sitting should be devoted to the discussion of this rule. It is absurd to imagine that half an hour would suffice. If the Government do not agree to this suggestion, let them closure the whole discussion now and take upon themselves the discredit of passing a penal law of this kind without fair and proper discussion.

MR. POWER (Waterford, E.): A most reasonable proposal has been placed before the House by those who have moved the adjournment of the debate. We have been at this discussion for eleven hours, and if it concerns anybody in this House in particular, it concerns the Members from Ireland. The rule is directly aimed at their liberty, and at the liberty of their constituents; and we maintain that it is only just and right that those whom it most affects should have a proper opportunity of studying the rule and seeing its bearing in every aspect. It only appeared on the notice Paper this morning, and most of us have not had the opportunity of carefully studying the rule. If we had we possibly might be ready with some Amendments. I maintain that the House is at a disadvantage in not having these Amendments in print before us. For that reason alone I think the motion for adjournment is essentially a reasonable one. The right hon. Gentleman seems to think that the time has been wasted on these benches; but I venture to say that very few of us have up to this time taken part in the discussions, although some of us are bound to express our views in regard to the new rule. If there has been any unreasonable consumption of time it has not been on these benches. The Amendment proposed by the hon. Member for East Mayo was most germane to the subject, and that was even recognised by the action of the Government. The waste of time has taken place on the other side of the House in connection with the motion of the noble Lord who had not the courage to vote for it. It was a bogus motion, and the First Lord delivered a speech in reference to it which I think was unworthy of him in his position. I think I may say that the conduct of the business of this House does not depend upon rules, but on the tact and courtesy of those who lead it. And certainly we have reason to complain on all grounds of the manner in which the business has been conducted. The right hon.

Gentleman would meet the convenience of all the Irish Members if he would accede to the motion for adjournment, and give us an opportunity of considering carefully this punitive motion, and not pass it in a hurry or panic. This is a far-reaching rules and Amendments of far less moment have taken weeks of discussion before they were passed. Our desire is therefore most reasonable.

*MR. BLACK (Banffshire): I rise to support the motion for adjournment. There is too much hurry about this motion. What is all the hurry for? Has not this House existed for 800 or 900 years without this regulation? Why, then, should you hurry this rule after only eight or nine hours debate? The First Lord of the Treasury has made the urgency of Supply a reason for special expedition, but he has given no reason why this alteration in the Standing Orders should be carried before Supply is got through. I venture therefore to suggest that the debate on the rule should be adjourned until after Easter or Whit-Sunday, and then taken up with the coolness which the importance of the subject requires.

DR. AMBROSE (Mayo, W.): The right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the House has been the prime mover and cause of all this trouble. I read in *The Times* of this morning that this was deliberately planned to prejudice the Irish Members. I had not the honour of being named the other night, but I consider that when the First Lord of the Treasury came into the House and moved the closure——

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The question before the House is that of adjournment.

DR. AMBROSE: I was going to say that we have a good many Amendments to move yet. In fact, I have an Amendment to propose, namely, to suspend the Leader of the House for two months on the ground that the right hon. Gentleman has caused the whole of the trouble. It seems to me, from the attitude of hon. Gentlemen opposite, that they have made up their minds to rush the rule through to-night; but I appeal to them to give us an opportunity of impeaching their conduct to-morrow.

MR. FLYNN: I do not agree with hon. Gentlemen opposite. We can sit here till sunrise to-morrow while they pursue a policy which is of no good to the Ministry and is no credit to the House. I have had several years experience of this House, and my opinion is that no practical progress is made with public business at these hours unless the Ministry give way. Members get exasperated on both sides and enter into foolish competition to show most endurance, like the man who fasted for forty hours. The Parliament is comparatively young, and when there is a long life before us, the conduct of public business should not be permitted to get into this *impasse*. It is somewhat tyrannical on the part of the Government to force the pace at present. No doubt as the Parliamentary year rolls on and we get into the summer months, when the sun rises earlier than now, we shall be treated to this kind of thing at greater length. This is a most important motion. If it had been a Sessional Order a short debate might have done. But a few Irish Members have taken part in the debate yet. If the right hon. Gentleman had had more regard for the convenience of the House he would not have made an academic speech on an unsubstantial motion which had nothing behind it, as the division showed. The waste of time has come not from these benches, but from the Government benches, and that at an hour when we should have been at our rest. I speak on behalf of the officials of the House, and of the policemen, who have had a most trying experience during the last few days, particularly the members of the A Division. The Government will gain nothing by continuing to oppose the motion for the adjournment. Some consideration should be had for private Members who are interested in private Bills. I am myself very anxious to come down here early to-morrow to get a draft of a Bill, but if we are kept sitting so late I will not be able to give my mind to the work. If the discussion is prolonged it certainly will not conduce in the smallest degree to the despatch of business, and I trust the First Lord of the Treasury, who is not insensible to reason, will recognise the plain and obvious facts of the situation.

MR. BOLAND (Kerry, S.): There is perhaps one argument which may appeal to right hon. Gentlemen on the Treasury Bench, and especially to the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the House. It is that there are a great number of junior Members in the House who are not accustomed to rules of procedure, and to whom it is extremely necessary that they should have an opportunity of seeing the bearing of this new rule. I consider further, not only in the case of junior Members but also in the case of senior Members, that some period should be allowed to elapse during which hon. Members might have an opportunity of considering carefully what would be the effect of this new rule. All Members from Ireland have special reason to demand that such a period should elapse before an important motion of this kind is carried, and therefore in our opinion the present is essentially an occasion on which the adjournment of the debate should be agreed to. A proposal has been made that as regards to-morrow the Army statement should be taken first and this motion afterwards. I am perfectly convinced if that course is pursued the House will have no occasion to regret it. To-morrow we will be able to discuss the matter carefully and without undue haste, and in a manner which will redound to the credit of the House of Commons and make a favourable impression on the new Members of the House. Unless you treat new Members with consideration and allow them time to master carefully new proposals of this kind, I do not for my part see how you can expect us in the future to look upon measures that may be introduced with that care and thought which are naturally expected from all Members of the House.

*MR. H. J. WILSON (Yorkshire, W.R., Holmfirth): The Leader of the House must know, as every hon. Member who has been in the House a few years knows, that no good is done by going on with a discussion of this kind at three o'clock in the morning. It is perfectly useless to continue keeping us here in this way. If I wanted another argument for the adjournment it would be the appearance of right hon. Gentlemen on the Treasury Bench, many of whom appear to be physically in a state approaching collapse.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL (Kerry, W.): I desire to support the motion for the adjournment. If the House will consider the matter dispassionately I am sure hon. Members will see that the claim now put forward is reasonable and moderate, especially when they consider that the right hon. Gentleman's motion is directed against the Irish Members. As a new Member of the House, knowing nothing of its rules, but anxious to conform to them as far as an Irish Member can, I rise to ask English Members honestly to say to us Irish Members whether they are prepared to treat us justly, and not disregard or treat with contempt our appeals for fair play. If hon. Members will consider the seriousness of the question before the House—that it is proposed to introduce into the rules of this House an innovation which I cannot characterise as otherwise than unheard of, and that the First Lord of the Treasury is trying to repress freedom of speech and to deprive Irish Members by the closure and his huge majority of their only opportunity to express their views—then it will be seen that the appeal for the adjournment of the debate at this late hour is reasonable. I was present at the scene which occurred on Tuesday, but we Irish Members are not ashamed of our action on that occasion. We felt that it was our duty to our constituents——

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member must speak on the adjournment of the debate.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL: I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, that I have departed from the rules of debate, but I would appeal that this new rule should be thoroughly discussed. If you persist in discussing this subject at this hour you will not be affording Irishmen a specimen of that broad-minded toleration expected from you, nor will you impress us with your sense of justice and fair play. We saw the time of the House wasted to-night by an Amendment which I cannot characterise, but when we went to a division on it the noble Lord who proposed it had not the courage to support it.

MR. NANNETTI (Dublin, College Green) said he rose to protest against the passing of the rule, which would inflict penalties not upon himself, but upon the constituency which he represented. He joined in the appeal of the hon. Member who moved the adjournment of the debate, not because of the pains and penalties which might be inflicted on himself—for both he and his hon. friends around him, who on Tuesday night felt constrained to make the protest that they did, would do again what they had done before if occasion arose. When they found hon. Members endeavouring to force through a Vote without adequate discussion——

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The question before the House is the question of adjournment. The hon. Member must confine himself to that.

MR. NANNETTI said that his only desire was to treat the House with due decorum, and he bowed to the ruling of the Chair. He desired to enter his protest against the Government endeavouring to enforce at that hour of the morning a new rule which would have a very far-reaching effect. It was neither worthy of the House nor of the First Lord of the Treasury, and so far from having a good effect it would have quite the contrary. It was not calculated to allay the feeling raised upon the Irish benches, because if it was the intention of the Government to rule Ireland at all, they must rule it with conciliation and with tact. His reason for supporting the adjournment was that many hon. Members had been in attendance at the House since the previous noon, and it was not fair that they should be kept longer, but if the right hon. Gentleman would not give way and grant so reasonable a request, perhaps the vitality of those who advocated the adjournment might be as great as that of hon. Gentlemen opposite, and they might be able to keep up the discussion so long that in the endeavour to enforce their arguments the House might get more than it bargained for. He strongly protested against the debate being continued, but, nevertheless, if it were to be he would not be coerced or frightened out of doing his duty to his constituents. He would much rather be at home looking after his own business, but so long as his country sent him to the House and the House would hear him, he would protest against being kept at the House to such a late hour when appeals had been made from all sides that the debate should be adjourned.

MR. JOYCE (Limerick): With my usual modesty, I was prepared to give way to an old and valued Member of the House, but as I have been called upon I desire to add my voice to those which have been lifted up in the appeal to the right hon. Gentleman the First Lord of the Treasury to adjourn the debate. Speaking as a new Member, I know you will grant me the usual courtesy that you extend to new Members. I look upon you, Sir, as the grand pilot of this House, and I know that if I stray from the channels of debate there is no fear of my getting wrecked upon the shoals which are known as breaking the rules of procedure in this House, for I am sure, Sir, with your usual courtesy you will kindly put me right. I am glad that the First Lord of the Treasury has returned to his place to listen to the dulcet tones of my voice, and I am in great hopes that what he would not do for the Leader of the Opposition and the other gentlemen who have appealed to him he may be inclined to do for the Member for Limerick City. So far as I am concerned the length of this debate is absolutely immaterial to me. I am used to long spells of fatigue and to long hours on my feet, and it is only the personal consideration which I have for the hon. Gentlemen on the Government benches that induces me to intervene and ask the right hon. Gentleman the First Lord of the Treasury to meet the hon. Members of this House and comply with their request for an adjournment of the debate on such an important question. The importance of this question must commend itself to every hon. Gentleman in the House. There is no Member of this honourable House who has more respect for your ruling, Sir, or the history of your House than I. I do not believe there is a Member of this House who for the short time that I have been a Member of it has given more time to listening with interest and, I may say, with pleasure to the debates that have arisen in this House, and I think on such an important question as this—and I could have wished that the right hon. Gentleman the First Lord of the Treasury had remained in his place while I gave my reasons—I think on such an important question as this hon. Members opposite would do much better to listen to me with patience, because if they do not the chances are that I shall occupy their attention a little more than I otherwise should, because wherever I have gone and stood up to speak I have always insisted on being heard, though I never have made what I call a speech, having always been too pleased to listen to good speeches made by others. But, Sir, on this occasion, when there is such an important question before the House, I think it is right that every hon. Member representing an Irish constituency should voice his own feelings and the feelings of his constituency in this House. I hope I am not delaying unnecessarily the time of this honourable House, but I certainly think after the reasons—fair and just reasons—put forward by hon. Members from all parts of the House for an adjournment, the First Lord of the Treasury would be doing a wise and a gracious thing if he met those hon. Members in the same conciliatory spirit as they have endeavoured to meet him.

MR. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil): I rise to support those who have already spoken, and to ask that the further consideration of this most important subject may be adjourned to another sitting. May I point out that what we are now discussing is a question affecting the future conduct of the Members of the House. Not only that, but the Amendment under discussion provides an automatic punishment that is to be applied without further consideration in the event of certain offences being committed. I respectfully submit that that is not the kind of Amendment that should be rushed through the House now. If there was an Amendment proposed on the criminal law of the country affecting the foulest outcasts of the nation, the House would insist upon proper time being given to the consideration of it; and surely the House ought to claim for itself, in spite of anything the Government might say or desire, as much respect as regards its own laws as it would insist upon in cases without its jurisdiction. There is one illustration which must be present to the minds of most members of the House of the danger of accepting Amendments the full bearings of which have not been considered. It stands to the credit of this Government that it attempted to pass an excellent Workmen's Compensation Bill. [Cries of "Order."] I hope that hon. Gentlemen will restrain their hilarity until I am finished. I was about to observe that we had in that Bill an illustration of the mischief that comes from hurriedly accepting Amendments the full bearing of which has not been considered. The intention of the Government in introducing the Bill was excellent.

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member cannot discuss another Bill by way of illustration.

MR. KEIR HARDIE: I will not, Sir, and I did not intend to, attempt to discuss the Bill, but I hope it is within the scope of a speaker to draw an illustration, without discussing the merits of the Bill, from something that has already been done in the House. My point is this, that the Bill as introduced was excellent.

*MR. SPEAKER reminded the hon. Member that that Bill could not be discussed.

MR. KEIR HARDIE: I ask the House to agree to the adjournment. If these Amendments which have been accepted or are still to be accepted have the same effect as the Amendments accepted in connection with the Workmen's Compensation Bill, the Government will live to regret not having acceded to the request for further time for the consideration of the subject. We have no right at this hour of the morning [3.20], when Members are not in a fit state to discuss serious business, to make a pretence of legislating in the direction of amending the Standing Orders which govern this House. The Amendment marks a new departure in the procedure of this House. It subjects Members of the House to a possible indignity from which hitherto Members of Parliament have been supposed to be exempt, and because of the importance of the Amendment, and its far-reaching consequences upon the future conduct of this House, I join in the appeal of those who have spoken that the further consideration of this matter may be adjourned until to morrow, until the Amendments on the Paper have been considered, and until those which have been accepted may be seen in their true and full bearing. It may suit hon. Gentlemen opposite to rush this thing through, but I would remind them that the root-cause of all the trouble, the reason why we are having a discussion now, is because of the foolish attempt to rush through another question without adequate discussion. Surely one lesson of that kind ought to be enough for one session. I trust, therefore, that the House will agree to the motion for the adjournment, and will allow this most important matter to be considered in a manner worthy of its importance.

MR. DUFFY (Galway, S.): I associate myself with my hon. friends on this side of the House in appealing to the Government to adjourn the discussion of this matter until to-morrow. We have been told, Mr. Speaker, in Ireland—I have learned it from my infancy—that in coming to this House and appealing to its Members for justice, it never would be denied to us. Yet what is the state of things that presents itself to us here to-night? You have nine-tenths of the representatives of Ireland making a request to the House of Commons in a unanimous and practical spirit, and you have another portion of the House refusing that request. It simply brings home to our minds the lesson that there is no possibility whatsoever of turning our eyes towards Westminster for justice, that if any good is to be done the people of Ireland must turn their attention in some other direction, that they must resort to other means and to other methods besides those——

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member can only speak to the question of the adjournment.

MR. DUFFY: I am emphasising some of the reasons which, in my opinion, should weigh with the House to defer this most important matter until to-morrow. Some short time ago the question was asked by an hon. Member above the gangway as to what was the intention of the Government in regard to those Irish Members who have been ejected from the House. It was asked if they might go back to their constituents and seek re-election.

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is not confining himself to the question of the adjournment.

MR. DUFFY: I am sorry that I should come in conflict with the Chair. It certainly was not my intention when I stood up. I will always endeavour as far as I possibly can while a Member of the House to conform to your ruling. But I consider this a very serious and vital matter. There is no man in this House to-night who can deny for an instant that this question is aimed, and aimed exclusively, at the suppression of speech and of liberty as far as the Irish Members are concerned. It is not aimed or directed against any party in this House outside the Irish Members, and as an exponent of Irish thought and feeling I enter an emphatic protest against the action sought to be forced on those Members. [Cries of "Order."] Gentlemen on the other side may shout "Order" and cry me down. I have had experience of this kind of thing in Ireland before, and I am not going to be put down.

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The only question before the House is whether it should now adjourn.

MR. DUFFY: In my opinion, Sir, the heat that has been introduced into this debate to-night would in itself be sufficient justification for hon. Members calling upon the Government to adjourn the matter until to-morrow. By doing so, I believe the House would bring to the consideration of the matter an impartiality and freedom from passion they are not able to bring to-night. We will be able amongst ourselves to discuss the matter, and the House will be able to arrive at a better and more reasonable conclusion.

MR. MURPHY (Kerry, E.): As a young Member of the House I desire also to join in the protest made from these benches in reference to this rule which has been introduced by the First Lord of the Treasury. It is a matter of difficulty for us to try to understand the proceedings of the House, and to try to act in accordance with its rules, when we are kept here to such an early hour in the morning for the purpose of discussing a question which is new to us, and which we are not in a position to understand, by reason of our inexperience, but on which we desire to bring our best judgment to bear. Hon. Members need have no fear that we are making this request because we are unable to stand the strain. We are quite able and prepared to carry the debate on until to-morrow morning and the morning after that if necessary. But we want to have this matter considered in a dispassionate manner. Passionate feelings have been aroused, and while Members are possessed with those feelings we are asked to pass a rule which may have the effect of disfranchising several Irish constituencies for a lengthy period. I therefore support this just and reasonable motion for adjournment.

The hon. Member was proceeding to discuss the proceedings of Tuesday night, when

*MR. SPEAKER reminded him that the only question before the House was that of the adjournment.

MR. MURPHY: I strongly approve of the motion for adjournment, because it will enable us to consider the matter in a calmer and more dignified manner than is possible this evening.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: It is almost a monstrous thing that in the second or third week of the session we should be called upon to sit here all night to carry new rules of this kind. If we were at the close of a long session, and it was necessary that Members should be able to get away to attend to their businesses, it would be a different matter, but there is no urgency whatever in the matter now under discussion. There are half-a-dozen ways in which the difficulty might have been met without resorting to the barbarous and miserable method of sitting to this hour of the morning. Here we have the First Lord determinedly refusing this motion for adjournment and at once leaving the House, and you will probably find him at this moment fast asleep in one of the lobbies. I do not grudge him his nap, but I do say that the spectacle of the House sitting till this hour in order to carry such a rule as the one before us is not creditable, nor will it be admired by the general public. If, however, there is a determination among new Members on the other side of the House to have an all-night sitting, I can assure them that whatever inferiority the Irish Members may exhibit on any other question they at any rate can hold their own in regard to a matter of that kind.

MR. JORDAN (Fermanagh, S.): I approach the discussion of this question under rather peculiar conditions. I should like to give my own reasons for what I have done, and with patience I should be able generally to state them. The first reason why the First Lord of the Treasury should consent to an adjournment of this debate is the hour of the clock. It is now on the point of four o'clock, and many hon. Members have been in this House since twelve o'clock, or at any rate since between two o'clock and three o'clock.

AN HON. MEMBER: When did you get in?

MR. JORDAN: I had the honour to get in myself at about six o'clock. These long sittings lead to extreme weariness of mind and body, especially when we are compelled to remain in this House discussing such a question as this at four o'clock in the morning. Another reason for the adjournment is that the public do not know at this hour of the morning what is being done in the House. Everybody knows there is no reporting going on now, especially at this hour of the morning, for the English papers will not report anything, and I suppose all the morning papers have gone to press. Therefore the public do not know what is being done in the House of Commons. Then there is another reason—somebody said that the First Lord of the Treasury had gone out to have a nap. I am sure no one begrudges him a nap. I do think, however, that it is cruel on the part of the First Lord of the Treasury to keep this House open up to this hour of the morning. It is cruel to keep the attendants here to this hour, because all the servants of the House, both female and male, will be required here to-morrow again at twelve o'clock to attend to their duties. I have nothing to say against the policemen of the place; from what I have heard, I believe that the policemen in the discharge of their duty the other night did it in as tender a manner as they possibly could. Therefore I think, out of consideration for the policemen of the place, this House ought to adjourn. Then there are the higher officials. There are the gentlemen at the Table, and I should not wonder if their minds are becoming a little clouded, and I should not be surprised if they made mistakes like other fallible and sleepy creatures. Then, I have often wondered since I came into this House at the endurance of Mr. Speaker in the Chair. I have said over and over again about the present occupant of that position, as I said about the late occupant, how they can endure to sit in that Chair from three o'clock in the afternoon to twelve at night I cannot understand. Here you are, Mr. Speaker, sitting in that Chair at four o'clock this morning, and the First Lord of the Treasury has no sympathy with you, and no compassion for the position in which you are placed. I will not use any harsh phrase about the right hon. Gentleman, but if he takes all these things into consideration I think he ought to adjourn this debate in order to allow the officials of the House and the hon. Members of this House to go home and try to get a few hours sleep before they come back here again in the morning. I would make a further appeal to him on these grounds. There are several old men in this House, and we old men are expected to remain here to discharge our duties as long as the House sits. I do not think it is fair for men of my age to have to do this, and I do appeal to him to adjourn the consideration of this question for the sake of the old men in this House who are trying to discharge their duty to the country. I press these considerations upon him, and I cannot understand how it is that he remains so obdurate. The right hon. Gentleman is not going to make much out of the course he is taking, for it will tend to irritate and not conciliate us, and it will act in such a way that we shall take every opportunity to retard business if we are not dealt with in a spirit of compromise and conciliation instead of in a spirit of irritation. I have always entertained a high opinion of the First Lord of the Treasury for his kindly sympathy, but I am amazed that his usually gentlemanly bearing and sympathy seem to have been suppressed to-night, and he is probably showing his rougher human nature in compelling the Members and the officers of this House to remain here simply to gratify his determination to have his will and his way. He sets up his will and way against the wishes of a large section of this House of Commons. He says, in fact, "You must give way to me, and I must have my way."

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I think this is one of the most protracted discussions on a mere question of adjournment of the debate that I have ever listened to, and the reason it has been so protracted has been that we are anxious to give the Government time to make up their mind what they will do. A number of Irish Members have already shown a great faculty of addressing the House at length upon subjects very limited in their scope, and I have been delighted to listen to my hon. friend who has just sat down, and who has been almost the hero of the recent episode in this House. ["Oh."] All I can say is, that if the hon. Gentleman who thinks it right to say "Oh!" and who knows nothing about the hon. Member of whom I am speaking—if he who says "Oh!" in that manner—if by the time he has been as long in the House as my hon. friend, and has attracted to himself something like the degree of respect which my hon. friend has, then he will be entitled to congratulation. We have been watching with interest, which is very unusual, the process which has kept us to-night. It is like that sort of peep-shows where you can see through a glass a colony of ants or bees engaged in their work. We have seen an endeavour being made to come to some sort of arrangement of business which will enable us not only to get home, but to escape anything like hurry or pressure in passing this most important motion, and also of providing adequately for the fulfilment of our duties on another day. I hope the right hon. Gentlemen have been able to arrive at some sort of conclusion. There has been a considerable disposition on this side of the House to meet the right hon. Gentleman. [HON. MEMBERS: Oh!] Again, the hon. Gentlemen who say

"Oh!" do not know what has been done. I certainly hope that it has not been without effect, but if it has not, I think the best course to pursue would be for the House to take a division on the motion for adjournment, and then let us go on with the debate on the main question.

*Mr. LAMBTON (Durham, S.E.): We used the word "Oh!" over here; and if the right hon. Gentleman wishes to know why I said "Oh!" I will tell him. It was because the right hon. Gentleman seemed to uphold the hon. Members who the other night disobeyed the Chair and created the scene.

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I never said anything of the sort.

*Mr. LAMBTON: The right hon. Gentleman said that the last speaker was a hero. By that he meant to infer that the other Gentlemen with whom the hon. Member acted were also heroes.

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I said he was the hero of an episode. He was the Member who was wrongfully punished by the House, and to whom the House had to apologise.

*Mr. LAMBTON: If the right hon. Gentleman regards the episode as in any way heroic I am sorry for his idea of heroism. I appeal to the First Lord of the Treasury to put an end to this unseemly debate; he has the power, and for the honour of the House I hope he will use it.

Mr. J. P. FARRELL (Longford, N.): I would not have intervened in this debate were it not that I realise so fully how important it is. I feel that the most careful consideration should be given to the Amendment now before the House. It seems to me that there is no necessity for the rush with which the right hon. Gentleman seems desirous of planting this new rule on the House. It is very easy in times of excitement, when Members' minds are impressionable, and in times of panic, to propose legislation because hon. Members fear that if that is not accepted other consequences will ensue. But the time may come when hon. Gentlemen may find themselves in the position in which we on this side of the House are at present. I think it is not in any sense of the word an unreasonable thing that more time should be given for the consideration of this great constitutional change, and that the House should be allowed to adjourn. For my part, I confess I cannot take any lengthy part in the debate. I was travelling all night, and I have not been in bed since the night before last. But I think I should avail myself of the ordinary privilege of the man in the street and get to bed in good time. I was not present at the incident the other night, and consequently I am all the more free to express my opinion as to the course which should be adopted in regard to that important event. I cannot but feel that the right hon. Gentleman has been badly advised in pressing on this rule at this very early hour of a new day. It is an attempt to gag us in this House under the thin guise of a new rule.

*Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Gentleman is travelling from the subject before the House.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The House divided:—Ayes, 233; Noes, 117. (Division List No. 45.)

AYES

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir A. F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, Augustus Henry E.
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arrol, Sir William
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. JoscelineFitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alex.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W (Leeds
Balfour, Maj. K R (Christchurch
Bartley, George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen B.
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Beckett, Ernest William
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Brown, Alex. H. (Shropshire)
Bull, William James
Bullard, Sir Harry
Carlile, William Walter
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C W (Derbyshire)
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.
Chamberlain, J Austen (Worc'r
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer

Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles R.
Corbett, A. C. (Glasgow)
Cranborne, Viscount
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir William T.
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. H.
Faber, George Denison
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn E.
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fitzroy, Hon. Edward A.
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Forster, Henry William
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City of Lon.
Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin&Nairn
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)
Gordon, Maj Evans (T'rH'ml'ts
Gore, Hon. F. S. Ormsby-
Goschen, Hon. George J.
Graham, Henry Robert
Green, Walford D (Wednesbury
Greene, Sir E W (B'ry S Edm'nds
Grenfell, William Henry
Gretton, John
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Groves, James Grimble
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Rt. Hn Lord G (Mid'x
Hamilton, Marq. of (Lond'derry
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashf'rd
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, F Leverton (Tynemouth
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanley
Heaton, George Henniker
Helder, Augustus
Henderson, Alexander
Hermon-Hodge, Robt. Trotter
Hope, J. F (Sheffield, Brightside
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Hoult, Joseph
Howard, Capt. J (Kent, Faversh
Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hughes, Colonel Edwin
Hutton, John (Yorks, N.R.)
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Johnston, (William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (Denbigh
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W (Salop.
Keswick, William
Knowles, Lees
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawrence, William F.
Lawson, John Grant
Lee, Capt A H. (Hants, Fareham
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt Hn Walter (Bristol, S.)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth
Macartney, Rt Hn W. G. Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Calmont, Col. J. (Antrim, E.)
M'Iver, Sir L. (Edinburgh, W.)
M'Killop, Jas. (Stirlingshire)
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
Maxwell, Rt Hn Sir H E (Wigton
Maxwell, W J H (Dumfriesshire
Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
Milner Rt. Hn. Sir Frederick G.
Milton, Viscount
Milward, Col. Victor
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
More, R. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow)
Morley, Charles (Breconshire)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Muntz, Philip A.
Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham (Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Nicholson, William Graham
Nichol, Donald Ninian
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Peace, Herbert Pike (Darlingt'n
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Pilkington, Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Rentoul, James Alexander
Renwick, George
Ridley, Hn. M. W. (Stalybridge
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W.
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Sandys, Lieut.-Col. Thos. Myles
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Saunderson, Rt Hn. Col. Edw. J.
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
Sharpe, William Edward E.
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (Renfrew)
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Smith, Jas. Parker (Lanarks.)
Smith, Rt. Hn. W. F. D (Strand)
Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk
Stanley, Edw. Jas. (Somerset)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Stock, James Henry
Stroyan, John
Sturt, Hn. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Tufnell, Col. Edward
Valentia, Viscount
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Webb, Col. William George
Welby, Lt-Col A. C. E. (Taunt'n
Welby, Sir Chas. G. E. (Notts.)
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Williams, Rt Hn J. Powell-(Bir.
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wills, Sir Frederick
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcester. N.)
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Allen, Chas. P. (Glouc., Stroud)
Ambrose, Robert
Atherley-Jones, L.
Bell, Richard
Black, Alexander William
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Boyle, James
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, George M. (Edinburgh)
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Burns, John
Buxton, Syndey Charles
Caine, William Sproston
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carew, James Laurence
Carvill, Patrick Geo. Hamilton
Causton, Richard Knight
Channing, Francis Allston

Cogan, Denis J.
Colville, John
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Dalziel, James Henry
Delany, William
Dillon, John
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, James H.
Edwards, Frank
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, John Edward
Emmott, Alfred
Evans,Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
Farrell, James Patrick
Flynn, James Christopher
Fuller, J. M. F.
Gladstone,Rt. HnHerbertJohn
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Griffith, Ellis J.
Hammond, John
Hardie,J.Keir(MerthyrTydvil
Harrington, Timothy
Hayden. John Patrick
Hayne,Rt.Hon. Charles Seale-
Helme, Norval Watson
Hobhouse,C. E. H.(Bristol,E.)
Horniman, Frederick John
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, David B. (Swansea)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Patrick James
Kitson, Sir James
Labouchere, Henry
Lambert, George
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese,SirJosephF.(Accrington
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Lloyd-George, David
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
M‘Arthur, William(Cornwall)
M‘Crae, George
M‘Dermott, Patrick
M‘Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Mooney, John J.
Morton,Edw.J.C.(Devonport)
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary Mid.)
O'Connor, James(Wicklow,W
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly,James(Roscommon,N
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pirie, Duncan V.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Redmond, JohnE.(Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rickett, J. Compton
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Roche, John
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Sinclair,CaptJohn(Forfarshire
Spencer,RtHn.C.R(Northants
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas,Alfred(Glamorgan,E.
Thomas,F.Freeman-(Hastings
Thomson, F. W. (York, W.R.)
Tomkinson, James
Tully, Jasper
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Williams,Osmond(Merioneth)
Wilson, Henry J. (York,W.R.
Woodhouse,SirJT(Huddersf'd

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Patrick O'Brien and Mr. Haviland Burke.

Question put accordingly, "That the Debate be now adjourned."

The House divided :—Ayes, 119; Noes, 231. (Division List No. 46.)

AYES.

Abraham, Wm. (Rhondda)
Allen, C. P. (Glouc., Stroud)
Ambrose, Robert
Atherley-Jones, L.
Beaumont, Wenworth C. B.
Bell, Richard
Black, Alexander William
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Boyle, James
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, Geo. M. (Edinburgh)
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, John
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carew, James Laurence
Carvill, Patrick George H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Channing, Francis Allston
Cogan, Denis J.
Colville, John
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Dalziel, James Henry
Delany, William
Dillon, John
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, James H.
Edwards, Frank
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, John Edward
Emmott, Alfred
Evans, S. T. (Glamorgan)
Farrell, James Patrick
Flynn, James Christopher
Fuller, J. M. F.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert J.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Griffith, Ellis J.
Hammond, John
Hardie,J.Keir(MerthyrTydvil
Harrington, Timothy
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne, Rt. Hn. Charles Seale-
Helme, Norval Watson
Hobhouse, C.E.H.(Bristol,E.)
Horniman, Frederick John
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, David B. (Swansea)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Patrick James
Kitson, Sir James
Labouchere, Henry
Lambert, George
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Lloyd-George, David
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
M‘Arthur, William (Cornwall)
M‘Crae, George
M‘Dermott, Patrick
M‘Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Mooney, John J.
Morley, Charles (Breconshire)
Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary, Mid.)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, Jas. (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, Jas.(Roscommon,N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pirie, Duncan V.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Redmond,John E.(Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)

Rickett, J. Compton
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Roche, John
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick, B.)
Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire)
Spencer, RtHnC.R.(Northants
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, F. Freeman-(Hastings
Thomas, JA(Glamorgan, Gower
Thomson, F. W. (York, W.R.)
Tomkinson, James
Tully, Jasper
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth
Woodhouse, SirJT(Hudd'rsfi'd
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Caine and Mr. Henry Wilson.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir A. F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, Augustus Henry E.
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arrol, Sir William
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John

Bagot, Capt. JoscelineFitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, RtHnGeraldW(Leeds
Balfour, Mjr. KR(Christchurch
Bartley, George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol
Beckett, Ernest William
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.

Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Brown, AlexanderH. (Shropsh.
Bull, William James
Bullard, Sir Harry
Carlile, William Walter
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc.
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer

Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Collings, Rt. Hn. Jesse
Colomb, SirJohnCharlesReady
Corbett, A. C. (Glasgow)
Cranborne, Viscount
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Cust, Henry John C.

Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davies, SirHoratioD. (Chath'm
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, SirWilliam Theodore
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edw.
Dyke, Rt. Hn. SirWilliam Hart

Faber, George Denison
Fellowes, Hon. AilwynEdward
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Forster, Henry William

Garfit, William
Gibbs, HnA. G. H. (CityofLond.
Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin&Nairn
Gordon, J (Londonderry, South
Gordon, MajEvans-(T'rH'mlts
Gore, Hon. F. S. Ormsby-
Goschen, Hon. GeorgeJoachim
Graham, Henry Robert
Green, Walford D. (Wdnsbry.)
Greene, SirEW(B'rySEdm'nds
Grenfell, William Henry
Gretton, John
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Groves, James Grimble
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Guthrie, Walter Murray

Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, RtHnLordG. (Mid'x
Hamilton, Marq. of (L'donderry
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashf'd)
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, F. Leverton (Tynem'uth
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Arthur H. (Hanley)
Heaton, John Henniker
Helder, Augustus
Henderson, Alexander
Hermon-Hodge, Robert T.
Hope, J. F. (Shef'ld, Brightside
Houldsworth, Sir William H.
Hoult, Joseph
Howard, CaptJ (Kent, Feversh.
Hozier, Hon. James H. Cecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hughes, Colonel Edwin
Hutton, John (Yorks, N.R.)

Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)

Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (Denbigh
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop.
Keswick, William
Knowles, Lees

Lambton, Hon. Frederick W.
Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawrence, William F.
Lawson, John Grant
Lee, Capt. AH(Hants. Fareham
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leveson-Gower, FrederickN.S.
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham
Long, Rt. Hon. W. (Bristol, S.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas, ReginaldJ. (Portsmouth

Macartney, Rt. Hn. W. G. E.
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Calmont, Col. J. (Antrim, E.
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (Edinb., W.)
M'Killop, Jas. (Stirlingshire)
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
Maxwell, RtHnSirHE(Wigt'n
Maxwell, WJH(Dumfriesshire
Middlemore, JohnThrogm'rt'n
Milner, Rt. Hn. SirFrederickG.
Milton, Viscount
Milward, Colonel Victor
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
More, R. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morgan, DavidJ(Walthamst.)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Muntz, Philip A.
Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
Murray, Chas. J. (Coventry)

Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian

O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens

Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Pease, HerbertPike(Darlingt'n
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Pilkington, Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp

Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.

Ratcliffe, R. F.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Rentoul, James Alexander
Renwick, George
Ridley, Hn. M. W. (Stalybridge
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W.

Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Sandys, Lt.-Col. Thos. Myles
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Saunderson, Rt. Hn. Col. Edw. J
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (Renfrew)
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Smith, James P. (Lanarks.)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Stanley, Hon Arthur (Ormskirk
Stanley, Edward J. (Somerset)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Stock, James Henry
Stroyan, John
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier

Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Tufnell, Col. Edward

Valentia, Viscount

Wanklyn, James Leslie
Wason, Jn. Cathcart (Orkney
Webb, Col. William George
Welby, Lt-Col. A. C. E. (Tauntn
Welby, Sir C. G. E. (Notts.)
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Williams, Rt. Hn J Powell (Birm
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wills, Sir Frederick
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

Amendment again proposed—

"In line 7, to leave out the words 'during the remainder of the Session,' and add the words 'for two months.'"

Question again proposed, "That the words 'during the remainder of the Session' stand part of the proposed Amendment, as amended."

MR. J. P. FARRELL said that it was absolutely necessary that the scope of the resolution should be limited if there was in the future to be any chance whatever that private Members would get an opportunity of expressing their views; therefore he had much pleasure in supporting the Amendment of the hon. Member for Northampton. He regretted exceedingly that the right hon. Gentleman the First Lord of the Treasury had shown no desire to accept any of the various Amendments or suggestions that had been made with the object of rendering this resolution not so hard and fast in character. The hon. Member for East Mayo and other hon. Gentlemen representing Irish constituencies had endeavoured to get the right hon. Gentleman to agree to more elastic proposals, but he had refused to allow any Amendment of the drastic resolution which was before the House. In the first place it was particularly unfortunate that the right hon. Gentleman should have proposed such a resolution, and in the second to wish to carry this struggle on in order to force it upon the House. It was not a good thing to legislate in a time of panic, but that was practically what the proposal of the Government amounted to. They had become alarmed at this ebullition of feeling, and in their panic they had come down with this drastic resolution and insisted that it should be carried right away. When an English Member of Parliament of the eminence of the hon. Member for Northampton came forward with a moderate proposal limiting the scope of this drastic change it ought to receive very careful consideration before it was rejected. The operation of this new rule was intended solely for the Irish Members, and as an Irish Member he protested against it being passed. Irish Members came to that House to do their duty, clothed with as much authority as any Members of the House, and they would not be prevented from doing so. He appealed to the Members of the House to consider what they were doing before they gave the unlimited power conferred by the resolution. He urged them to reflect upon what it would mean to disfranchise a constituency for six months of the session. If the Irish Members were suspended and removed from the House by main force, unless some further rule was made to prevent them from applying for the Chiltern Hundreds, they would apply and resign their positions in the House and go back to their constituencies, with the absolute certain knowledge that, in spite of the resolution by which they were suspended, they would be sent back again. The result would be that the resolution would become practically inoperative. Under the Standing Orders a Member now could be suspended for a week, a fortnight, or a month. The hon. Member for Northampton made a moderate proposal that the long limit of one month should be extended to two; surely that was drastic enough. There had not been a case for many years where the suspension had been for a month; even in 1881 and 1893 the longest suspensions were one week. He suggested that the rule should be left as it stood, with the extreme limit for suspensions one month, but granting that special cases required special treatment, and that it might be necessary to provide against similar outbreaks to that which occurred on the previous Tuesday, it was not fair to the public who elect the Member to say, on a motion from the Chair, that that man should be suspended for the rest of the session. The Amendment of the hon. Member for Northampton was a moderate one, and should commend itself to the earnest attention of the House. It seemed to him that a good deal of the freedom which they had been trying to confer upon other peoples of the world they were willing to take from the Members of their own House. He most strongly and earnestly supported the Amendment proposed by the hon. Member for Northampton. He assured the Government that he felt that in this matter a very vital principle, and, in fact, the cardinal principle, of liberty was at stake. Whether or not the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the House saw his way to accede to the Amendment the Irish Members would take every opportunity open to them within the rules of debate to press on the attention of this unwilling Parliament the claims of the country which they come here to represent. Whether as the result of new rules or old rules they endeavour to stifle the Nationalist representatives of Ireland, they would find each and every one of them perfectly willing to undergo any punishment.

MR. TULLY: I think the question of the penalty is one to which the House should give a good deal more attention than can be given at this hour of the morning [4.50]. We have to choose between two courses—whether the penalties are to be the heavy ones proposed by the Government, or the much milder penalties proposed by the hon. Member for Northampton. It was one of the monarchs of England, the unfortunate Charles I., who first used the expression that the punishment could be greater than the offence. I say that under this new rule it is quite possible that the punishment can be greater than the offence. A Member on these benches might in the excitement of the moment be drawn into the whirlpool of passion, as was the case the other night, by the action taken by the Government of the day, and that Member, who in other respects and at other times may be an observer of law and order, giving his best attention to the promotion of the business of the House, might be subjected to the same punishment as a Member who had plotted an organised resistance. I say that in a case like that there should be some differentiation between the Members. The Member who is drawn into the affair as the result of a mere outburst of passion should not be treated with the same severity as a Member who entered it as a matter of calculation.

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is not addressing himself to the Amendment. There is no question of differential treatment before the House.

MR. TULLY: I was trying to explain the reason why I thought two months would be a more equitable punishment for any offence that might be committed than the vague punishment put down here of suspension for the entire session. Another point that is not covered by the new rule is the question whether, in the event of a Member being suspended for the entire session, he can go home to his constituency and resign his seat. There is nothing in the Standing Orders on that question, and I do not see that the punishment provided by the new rule proposed by the First Lord of the Treasury would prevent the resignation of Members. I think the proposal of the hon. Member for Northampton would get rid of any difficulty, and would not be so likely to provoke the resignation of Members. If the severer punishment should be adopted you will force Members to apply for the Chiltern Hundreds. How are you to prevent that except by some illegal action directed towards the Chancellor of the Exchequer? Are we to see the Chancellor of the Exchequer muzzled by the First Lord of the Treasury, just as the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs is muzzled in the matter of supplementary questions? If the new rule is carried the First Lord of the Treasury will have to arrange by some illicit means to prevent the Chancellor of the Exchequer from accepting the resignation of particular Members. I think that will not contribute to the dignity of the House, and to the winning of public respect for the acts of the House. We have in this case to decide whether a heavy or a moderate penalty is the more effective weapon. In my opinion, if you have a heavy penalty it will inevitably defeat itself. If you suspend a Member in the first week of the session for the entire session you will by that means arouse, not only among his own constituency, but among the larger public of Ireland, sympathy for that Member. We have heard the First Lord of the Treasury denouncing cheap martyrdom. Is he not providing cheap martyrdom by this rule, which has no elasticity about it, and which in the case of suspending a Member at the opening of the session is bound by the very violence of the rule to excite sympathy for the Member? I think in a case like that the right hon. Gentleman is not proceeding on the lines of prudence or wisdom. I think that a moderate penalty is always more effective than a drastic measure. A penalty of two months is one that would not excite very great sympathy for the Member who would commit himself in the manner that these new rules profess to deal with. In the speeches delivered here to-night by hon. Members on the other side we have heard drastic remedies called for. One hon. Member seemed to be thirsting for the scalps and for the blood of the Irish Members. Some of them seemed to wish for our perpetual imprisonment or imprisonment during the session. Certainly some of us have been in prison before, and would not bother about any further imprisonment inflicted upon us. I suppose the next drastic remedy called for will be one of burning our houses. That will be the next remedy applied to Irish Members who do not submit with sufficient dignity to whatever motions the Government of the day seek to bring into operation. I think this rule will have a much wider application than is intended now—to the Irish Members. In the Parliament of 1892 hon. Members who are now on the Government benches were guilty of conduct which merited very much more drastic remedies than the First Lord of the Treasury is proposing now. I think hon. Members on the other side of the House would be well advised if they would look a little ahead. They are not likely to be always in a majority and to sit on the Government side of the House. The time may come when they will sit on this Opposition side of the House, when probably they will try to resist the measures of popular reform, and when probably the very weapon they are forging to-night will be used against themselves. We have heard an hon. Gentleman, who spoke in his South African manner, calling for our heads. Probably when the hon. Members on the Government benches are over on this side of the House, some gentleman, speaking with the same spirit as that hon. Member, will be calling for the heads of the Tories just as they are calling now for the heads of the Irish Members. Hon. Gentlemen will probably regret that they ever forged this instrument, which will be used against themselves later on. Liberal and Radical Members have to complain a great deal of the obstruction of the Tory party when Liberals and Radicals are in power.

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! I must ask the hon. Gentleman to confine himself to the Amendment before the House.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The House divided :—Ayes, 219 ; Noes, 105. (Division List No. 47.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood,Capt.SirAlex.F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte F.
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, Augustus Henry E.
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arrol, Sir William
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot,Capt.Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird,John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour,Rt.Hon.A.J.(Manch'r
Balfour, RtHnGerald W(Leeds
Balfour, MajK.R.(Christchch.
Bartley, George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen B.
Beach,Rt.Hn.SirM.H.(Bristol
Beckett, Ernest William
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Brown,AlexanderH.(Shropsh.
Bull, William James
Bullard, Sir Harry
Carlile, William Walter
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish,V.C.W(Derbyshire
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain,Rt.Hon.J.(Birm.
Chamberlain, J. A. (Worc'r.)
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A.E.
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb,SirJohnCharlesReady
Corbett, A.Cameron(Glasgow)
Cranborne, Viscount
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davies,SirHoratioD(Chatham
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford,SirWilliam Theodore
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Faber, George Denison
Fellowes, Hon.AilwynEdward
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fitzroy, HonEdwardAlgernon
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Forster, Henry William
Garfit, William
Gibbs,HnA.G.H.(CityofLond.
Gibbs,Hon.Vicary(St.Albans)
Godson,SirAugustusFrederick
Gordon,Hn.J.E.(Elgin&Nairn
Gordon,J.(Londonderry,South
Gordon,MajEvans-(T'rH'ml'ts
Gore, Hon. F. S. Ormsby-
Goschen,Hon. GeorgeJoachim
Graham, Henry Robert
Green,WalfordD(Wednesbury
Greene,SirEW(B'rySEdm'nds
Grenfell, William Henry
Gretton, John
Groves, James Grimble
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton,RtHnLordG(Midl'x
Hamilton,Marq.of(L'd'nderry
Hardy,Laurence(Kent,Ashf'd
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, F. Leverton (Tynem'th
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Arthur H. (Hanley)
Heaton, John Henniker
Helder, Augustus
Hermon-Hodge, Robt. Trotter
Hope, J. F.(Shef'ld,Brightside
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Hoult, Joseph
Howard,CaptJ(Kent,Faversh.
Hozier,Hon.JamesHenryCecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hughes, Colonel Edwin
Hutton, John (Yorks., N.R.)
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Kenyon,Hon. G.T. (Denbigh)
Kenyon-Slaney,Col.W.(Salop.
Keswick, William
Knowles, Lees
Lambton, Hon.FrederickWm.
Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawrence, William F.
Lawson, John Grant
Lee,CaptAH (Hants,Fareham
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leveson-Gower, Fred. N. S.
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long,Col.CharlesW.(Evesham
Long, Rt. Hon. W. (Bristol, S.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col.Francis(Lowestoft)
Lucas, ReginaldJ.(Portsm'uth
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Calmont,Col.J.(Antrim,E.)
M'Iver, Sir L. (Edinburgh, W.
M'Killop,James(Stirlingshire)
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Massey-Mainwaring,HnW.F.
Maxwell,RtHnSirHE(Wigton
Maxwell,W.J.H.(Dumfriessh.
Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
Milner, Rt. Hon. Sir Fred. G.
Milward, Col. Victor
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
More, Robt.Jasper(Shropshire
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Muntz, Philip A.
Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Newdigate,Francis Alexander
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
O'Neill, Hon. Robt. Torrens
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, Herb.Pike(Darlington)
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Pilkington, Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Rentoul, James Alexander
Renwick, George
Ridley,Hn.M.W. (Stalybridge
Ritchie,Rt.Hn.Chas.Thomson
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W.
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler,Col. Samuel Alexander
Sandys,Lieut.-Col.Thos Myles
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Saunderson,Rt.Hn.Col.Edw.J
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seely, CharlesHilton(Lincoln)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart, M.H.(Renfrew
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Smith,JamesParker(Lanarks.
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
Stanley, Edward J.(Somerset)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir J. M.
Stock, James Henry
Stroyan, John
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Wm. E. Murray
Tufnell, Col. Edward
Valentia, Viscount

Wanklyn, James Leslie
Wason, John C. (Orkney)
Webb, Col. William George
Welby,Lt.-Col.A.CE(Taunton
Welby, Sir C. G. E. (Notts.)
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset)
Williams,RtHnJPowell-(Bir.
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson,A.Stanley(York,E.R.)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson,J.W.(Worcestersh.N.)
Wortley,Rt. Hon.C. B.Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young,Commander (Berks,E.
TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Allen,CharlesP.(Glouc.,Stroud
Ambrose, Robert
Atherley-Jones, L.
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Black, Alexander William
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Boyle, James
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Burke, E. Haviland-
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Carew, James Laurence
Carvill, Patrick Geo.Hamilton
Channing, Francis Allston
Cogan, Denis J.
Colville, John
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Dalziel, James Henry
Delany, William
Dillon, John
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, James H.
Edwards, Frank
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, John Edward
Emmott, Alfred
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan
Farrell, James Patrick
Flynn, James Christopher
Fuller, J. M. F.
Gladstone,Rt.Hn. Herbert Jn.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Griffith, Ellis J.
Hammond, John
Hardie, J. K. (MerthyrTydvil)
Harrington, Timothy
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne, Rt.Hon.Charles Seale-
Helme, Norval Watson
Hobhouse, C. E.H.(Bristol, E.
Horniman, Frederick John
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Joicey, Sir James
Jones,DavidBrynmor(Swans'a
Jones,William (Carnarvonsh.)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kenndy, Patrick James
Lambert, George
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leigh, Sir Joseph
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
M'Arthur, Wm. (Cornwall)
M'Crae, George
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Mooney, John J.
Morley, Charles (Breconshire)
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary, Mid)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor,James(Wicklow,W.
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly,James(Roscommon,N
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Partington, Oswald
Pirie, Duncan V.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Redmond,JohnE. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rickett, J. Compton
Roche, John
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick, B.)
Sinclair,CaptJohn(Forfarshire
Spencer,Rt.Hn.CR(Northants
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas,Alfred (Glamorgan,E.
Thomas,F.Freeman-(Hastings
Thomson, F. W. (York,W.R.)
Tomkinson, James
Tully, Jasper
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Williams,Osmond(Merioneth)
Wilson, Henry J.(York,W.R.)
TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Labouchere and Mr. E. J. C. Morton.

Question put accordingly, "That the words 'during the remainder of the Session,' stand part of the proposed Amendment, as amended."

The House divided :—Ayes, 224 ; Noes, 97. (Division List No. 48.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood,Capt.SirAlex.F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, Augustus Henry E.
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arrol, Sir William
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt.JoscelineFitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour,Rt.Hon.A.J.(Manch'r
Balfour,RtHnGeraldW.(Leeds
Balfour, Maj. K. R. (Christch.
Bartley, George C. T.
Bathurst,Hon.AllenBenjamin
Beach,Rt.Hn.SirM.H.(Bristol
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Beckett, Ernest William
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Brown,Alexander H.(Shropsh.
Bull, William James
Carlile, William Walter
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish,V.C.W.(Derbysh.)
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain,Rt.Hon J.(Birm
Chamberlain,J.Austen(Worc'r
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb,SirJohnCharlesReady
Corbett,A.Cameron(Glasgow)
Cranborne, Viscount
Cubitt, Hon. Henry

Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davies,SirHoratioD(Chatham
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford,SirWilliamTheodore
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin

Faber, George Denison
Fellowes, Hon. A. Edward
Fielden, EdwardBrocklehurst
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fitzroy, Hon. Edw. Algernon
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Forster, Henry William
Fuller, J. M. F.

Garfit, William
Gibbs,Hn A.G.H(CityofLond.
Gibbs, Hn.Vicary (St.Albans)
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.

Gordon,Hn.J.E(Elgin&Nairn
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)
Gordon, Maj. E. (T'r Haml'ts)
Gore, Hon. F. S. Ormsby-
Goschen,Hon.George Joachim
Graham, Henry Robert
Green,WalfordD(Wednesbury
Greene,SirEW(B'rySEdm'nds
Grenfell, William Henry
Gretton, John
Groves, James Grimble
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton,Rt.Hn.LdG(Midd'x
Hamilton,Marq.of(L'nd'nd'rry
Hardy,Laurence(Kent,Ashfd.
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris,FLeverton(Tynemouth
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath,ArthurHoward(Hanley
Heaton, John Henniker
Helder, Augustus
Hermon-Hodge, Robert T.
Hope,J.F.(SheffieldBrightside
Houldsworth, Sir William H.
Hoult, Joseph
Howard,CaptJ.(Kent,Faversh
Hozier, Hon. James Henry C.
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hughes, Colonel Edwin
Hutton, John (Yorks, N.R.)
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Kenyon,Hon.Geo.T.(Denbigh
Kenyon-Slaney,Col.W.(Salop)
Keswick, William
Knowles, Lees
Lambton,Hon.Frederick Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawrence, William F.
Lawson, John Grant
Lee,Capt.AH(Hants,Fareham
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leveson-Gower,FrederickN.S.
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long,Col.CharlesW.(Evesham
Long,Rt.Hn.Walter(Bristol,S
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas,Col.Francis(Lowestoft)
Lucas,ReginaldJ.(Portsmouth
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur,Charles (Liverpool)
M'Calmont,Col.J.(Antrim,E.)
M'Iver,SirLewis(EdinburghW
M'Killop,James(Stirlingshire
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Massey-Mainwaring,Hn.W.F
Maxwell,RtHnSirH E(Wigt'n
Maxwell,WJH(Dumfriesshire
Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
Milner,Rt.Hon.SirFrederickG
Milward, Colonel Victor
Molesworrth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
More,Robt.Jasper(Shropshire
Morgan, D. J.(Walthamstow)
Morley, Charles (Breconshire)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton,ArthurH.A.(Deptford
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Muntz, Philip A.
Murray,Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute)
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Newdigate, FrancisAlexander
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease,HerbertPike(Darlingt'n
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Pilkington,Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Rentoul, James Alexander
Renwick, George
Ridley,Hn.M.W.(Stalybridge)
Ritchie,Rt.Hon.ChasThomson
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W.
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col. SamuelAlexander
Sandys,Lieut.-Col.ThosMyles
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Saunderson, Rt. Hn. Col. E.J.
Scott, Sir S.(Marylebone, W.)
Seely, CharlesHilton(Lincoln)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart,M. H.(Renfrew
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Smith,JamesParker(Lanarks.
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Stanley,Hn.Arthur(Ormskirk
Stanley, Edward J.(Somerset)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Stock, James Henry
Stroyan, John
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas,F.Freeman-(Hastings
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson,Wm.Edw.Murray
Tufnell, Col. Edward
Valentia, Viscount
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Wason, John C. (Orkney)
Webb,Colonel WilliamGeorge
Welby,Lt.-ColACE(Taunton)
Welby,SirCharlesG.E.(Notts.
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Williams,RtHnJPowell-Birm
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson,A.Stanley(York,E.R.)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson,J.W.(Worcestersh. N.
Wortley, Rt.Hon.C.B.Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Commander(Berks,E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Allen,CharlesP(Glouc.,Stroud
Ambrose, Robert
Atherley-Jones, L.
Bell, Richard
Black, Alexander William
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Boyle, James
Brigg, John
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Burke, E. Haviland-
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Carew, James Laurence
Carvill,Patrick Geo.Hamilton
Channing, Francis Allston
Cogan, Denis J.
Colville, John
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Delany, William
Dillon, John
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, James H.
Edwards, Frank
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, John Edward
Emmott, Alfred
Evans, Samuel T.(Glamorgan)
Farrell James Patrick
Flynn, James Christopher
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hammond, John
Hardie,JKeir(MerthyrTydvil)
Harrington, Timothy
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne, Rt.Hon.Charles Seale-
Helme, Norval Watson
Hobhouse, C. E. H.(Bristol,E.
Horniman, Frederick J.
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, David B. (Swansea)
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Patrick James
Lambert, George
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leigh, Sir Joseph
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
M'Crae, George
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Mooney, John J.
Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.

Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien,Kendal(Tipper'ryMid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor,James(Wicklow,W.
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, Jas (Roscommon, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Partington, Oswald
Pirie, Duncan V.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rickett, J. Compton
Roche, John
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
Thomas,Alfred(Glamorgan,E.
Thomson, F. W. (York,W.R.)
Tomkinson, James
Tully, Jasper
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Williams,Osmond(Merioneth)
Wilson, HenryJ.(Yorks,W.R.

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Labouchere and Mr. Broadhurst.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR claimed, "That the Main Question be now put."

Main Question put accordingly, "That the Amendment, as amended, be there inserted in Standing Order No. 21."

The House divided :—Ayes, 264 ; Noes, 51. (Division List No. 49.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood,Capt.SirAlex.F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allen,Chas.P.(Glouc., Stroud)
Allhusen, Augustus Hy. Eden
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arrol, Sir William
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Joceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (Leeds)
Balfour,Maj.K.R.(Christch'ch
Bartley, George C. T.
Bathurst,Hon.AllenBenjamin
Beach,Rt.Hn.SirM.H.(Bristol
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Beckett, Ernest William
Bell, Richard
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Brigg, John
Brown, Alex) H.(Shropsh.)
Bull, William James
Bullard, Sir Harry
Caldwell, James
Carlile, William Walter
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish,V. C. W. (Derbysh.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt.Hn.J.(Birm.
Chamberlain, J. A. (Worc'r
Chapman, Edward
Charrington Spencer
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H.A.E.
Collings, Rt. Hon Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Chas. Ready
Colville, John
Corbett,A.Cameron(Glasgow)
Cranborne, Viscount
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies,SirHoratioD(Chatham
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir Wm. Theodore
Duncan, James H.
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Edwards, Frank
Elibank, Master of
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan
Faber, George Denison
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
Fielden, Edw. Brocklehurst
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Rbt. Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fitzroy, Hon. Edw. Algernon
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Forster, Henry William
Fuller, J. M. F.
Garfit, William
Gibbs,Hn.A.GH.(CityofLond.
Gibbs, Hon.Vicary(St.Albans
Gladstone, Rt. Hon. H. John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gordon,Hn.J.E.(Elgin&Nairn
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S)
Gordon,MajEvans-(T'rH'ml'ts
Gore, Hon. F. S. Ormsby-
Goschen,Hn.George Joachim-
Graham, Henry Robert
Grant, Corrie
Green, W. D. (Wednesbury)
Greene,SirEW(BryS.Edm'nds
Grenfell, William Henry
Gretton, John
Griffith, Ellis J.
Groves, James Grimble
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Halsey Thomas Frederick
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton,RtHnLordG.(Mid'x
Hamilton,Marq.of(L'donderry
Hardy,Laurence(Kent,Ashf'd
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris,F.Leverton(Tynemoth
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayne,Rt.Hon.Charles Seale-
Heath,ArthurHoward(Hanley
Heaton, John Henniker
Helder,Augustus
Helme, Norval Watson
Hermon-Hodge,RobertTrotter
Hobhouse,C. E. H.(Bristol,E.)
Hope,J.F.(Sheff'ld,Brightside
Horniman, Frederick John
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Hoult, Joseph
Howard,CaptJ(Kent,Famersh.
Hozier,Hon.JamesHenryCecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hughes, Colonel Edwin
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Hutton, John (Yorks., N.R.)
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Joicy, Sir James
Jones,DavidBrynmor(Swans'a
Kenyon,Hon.Geo.T.(Denbigh
Kenyon-Slaney,Col.W.(Salop
Keswick, William
Knowles, Lees
Lambton,Hon.Frederick Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawrence, William F.
Lawson, John Grant
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lee,CaptAH(Hants.Fareham
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leveson-Gower,Frederick N.S
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long,Col.CharlesW.(Evesham
Long,Rt.Hn.Walter(Bristol,S
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (Cumb. Eskdale)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis(Lowestoft
Lucas,ReginaldJ.(Portsmouth
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Chas. (Liverpool)
M'Arthur, Wm. (Cornwall)
M'Calmont,Col.J.(Antrim, E.
M'Crae, George
M'Iver, Sir L. (Edinburgh, W)

M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
Maxwell, Rt Hn Sir H E. (Wigt'n
Maxwell, W J H (Dumfriesshire
Middlemore, John Throgmort'n
Milner, Rt. Hon. Sir Fredk. G.
Milward, Colonel Victor
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
More, R. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morgan, Dav. J. (Walthamstow
Morley, Charles (Breconshire)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H A (Deptford)
Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Muntz, Philip A.
Murray, Rt Hn A Graham (Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, Herb. Pike (Darlington
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Pilkington, Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Rickitt, Harold James
Reid, James (Greenock)
Rentoul, James Alexander
Renwick, George
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridley, Hn. M. W. (Stalybridge
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W.
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Sandys, Lt.-Col. Thos. Myles
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Saunderson, Rt. Hn Col. Edw. J.
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick, B.)
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (Renfrew)
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Smith, James Parker (Lanarks
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Stanley, Rt Hn. C R. (Northants
Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
Stanley, Edw. Jas. (Somerset)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Stock, James Henry
Stroyan, John
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, F. Freeman- (Hastings
Thomas, J. A. (Glam., Gower)
Thomson, F. W. (York, W.R.
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomkinson, James
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Tufnell, Col. Edward
Valentia, Viscount
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Webb, Col. William George
Weir, James Galloway
Welby, Lt.-Col. A C E (Taunton)
Welby, Sir Chas. E. (Notts.)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitmore, Chas. Algernon
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Williams, Rt. Hn J Powell- (Bir.
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson, J W. (Worcestersh. N)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Commander (Berks, E.

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Ambrose, Robert
Atherley-Jones, L.
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Boyle, James
Broadhurst, Henry
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Carew, James Laurence
Carvill, Patrick Geo. Hamilton
Channing, Francis Allston
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Delany, William
Dillon, John
Duffy, William J.
Farrell, James Patrick
Hammond, John
Hardie, J Keir (Merthyr Tydvil
Harrington, Timothy
Hayden, John Patrick
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Patrick James
Labouchere, Henry
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Mooney, John J.
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipper'ry Mid
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, Jas. (Roscommon, N.
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Reddy, M.
Redmond, J. E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Roche, John
Sullivan, Donal
Tully, Jasper
White, George (Norfolk)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. Patrick O'Brien and
Mr. Haviland-Burke.

Ordered, That if any Member, or Members acting jointly, who have been suspended under this Order from the service of the House, shall refuse to obey the direction of the Speaker, when severally summoned under the Speaker's orders by the Serjeant-at-Arms to obey such direction, the Speaker shall call the attention of the House to the fact that recourse to force is necessary in order to compel obedience to his direction, and the Member or Members named by him as having refused to obey his direction shall thereupon, and without further Question put, be suspended from the service of the House during the remainder of the Session.

COMPENSATION FOR DAMAGE TO CROPS, ETC., BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Clause 1.

Committee report Progress; to sit again upon Wednesday, 19th June.

Adjourned at twenty minutes before Six of the clock, a.m.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Friday, 8th March, 1901.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The Lord Chancellor acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with:—

Milford Docks [H.L.].
Harpenden District Gas [H.L.].
Cork, Blackrock, and Passage Railway [H.L.].
Otley Gas [H.L.].

Also the Certificate that no Standing Orders are applicable to the following Bill:—

Berwickshire County Town [H.L.].

The same were ordered to lie on the Table.

ARLESEY GAS BILL [H.L.].

BELFAST HARBOUR BILL [H.L.].

FOLKESTONE CORPORATION BILL [H.L.].

HENRY DIAPER AND COMPANY (DELIVERY WARRANTS) BILL [H.L.].

OAKHAM WATER BILL [H.L.].

Committed.

ASPATRIA, SILLOTH, AND DISTRICT WATER BILL [H.L.].

BARROW-IN-FURNESS CORPORATION BILL [H.L.].

BOLTON CORPORATION BILL [H.L.].

BOURNEMOUTH CORPORATION BILL [H.L.].

BRISTOL CORPORATION CEMETERY BILL [H.L.].

BRISTOL CORPORATION (DOCKS AND RAILWAYS, ETC.) BILL [H.L.].

BROADSTAIRS AND ST. PETER'S WATER AND IMPROVEMENT BILL [H.L.].

CHESTERFIELD IMPROVEMENT BILL [H.L.].

DOVER CORPORATION BILL [H.L.].

DOVER HARBOUR BILL [H.L.].

HANDSWORTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL BILL [H.L.].

HARROGATE WATER BILL [H.L.].

HEYWOOD AND MIDDLETON WATER BOARD BILL [H.L.].

ISLINGTON AND EUSTON RAILWAY BILL [H.L.].

KING'S NORTON AND NORTHFIELD URBAN DISTRICT TRAMWAYS BILL [H.L.].

LEEDS CORPORATION (GENERAL POWERS) BILL [H.L.].

LEEDS CORPORATION WATER BILL [H.L.]

LLANELLY HARBOUR BILL [H.L.].

MANCHESTER AND LIVERPOOL ELECTRIC EXPRESS RAILWAY BILL [H.L.].

MANCHESTER CORPORATION BILL [H.L.].

MERSEY DOCKS AND HARBOUR BOARD BILL [H.L.].

NORTH-EAST LONDON RAILWAY BILL [H.L.].

PICCADILLY AND CITY RAILWAY BILL [H.L.].

POULTON-LE-FYLDE GAS BILL [H.L.].

PRESTATYN WATER BILL [H.L.].

RIPON CORPORATION BILL [H.L.].

RUGBY WATER AND IMPROVEMENT BILL [H.L.],

SALFORD CORPORATION BILL [H.L.].

SHEFFIELD CORPORATION BILL [H.L.].

SHIELDS BRIDGE BILL [H.L.].

SMETHWICK CORPORATION BILL [H.L.].

SOUTHPORT WATER (TRANSFER) BILL [H.L.].

STOCKPORT CORPORATION WATER BILL [H.L.].

STRATTON AND BUDE IMPROVEMENT BILL [H.L.].

WARKWORTH HARBOUR BILL [H.L.].

Committed. The Committees to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

ELLAND GAS BILL [H.L.].

ALBION STEAM COAL COMPANY BILL [H.L.].

FRESHWATER, YARMOUTH, AND NEWPORT RAILWAY BILL [H.L.].

Read 2^a.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TRADE REPORTS.

Annual Series, No. 2,559. Italy (Finances for the year 1900-1901).

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

Annual Reports of proceedings for the year 1900, under the Tithe Acts, the Copyhold Act, 1894, the Inclosure Acts, the Metropolitan Commons Acts, the Drainage and Improvement of Land Acts, the Universities and College Estates Acts, 1858-1898, the Glebe Lands Act, 1888, etc., etc.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS IN RECEIPT OF PUBLIC MONEY.

Return showing the names of present Members of the House of Lords who are in receipt of public money from any public source, whether in the form of salary, pay, pension, or allowance of any kind, or who have received commutation in respect thereof under the Commutation Acts; the amount they receive or have commuted, with the amount of the commutation money; and the name of the office or nature of the service for which the money is or has been paid: Ordered to be laid before the House.—(*The Lord Monkswell.*)

PETITION.

EDUCATION.

Petition for amendment of the regulations with regard to Higher Grade Schools, and the law with regard to Evening Continuation Schools; of the School Board for the county borough of Ipswich; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

THE HOUSING PROBLEM—GOVERNMENT POLICY.

***THE EARL OF PORTSMOUTH**: My Lords, I rise to call the attention of the House to a speech delivered by the Lord Privy Seal on 18th December in regard to the housing of the working classes, and to ask His Majesty's Government if they intend to introduce any legislation on the subject. The speech of the noble Marquess at the head of the Government, to which I would call your attention, was delivered at a luncheon in connection with the conference of the National Union of Conservative and Constitutional Associations. It was a political occasion, and the noble Marquess, in congratulating his supporters upon the Conservative victories in London, was tempted into recommending the housing question for valuable political considerations—

> "I am afraid," he said, "that if you look carefully you will find that such Radicalism as still remains attaches to those districts of London, unfortunately still too large, where what is called the great question of the housing of the poor is living and burning."

The noble Marquess knows his own party better than I do, but, even if it were true, it seems hardly considerate to his own party for the noble Marquess to state so frankly that the Tory party is only able to contemplate a moral question through the spectacles of political advantage.

But, my Lords, is it true that the middle-class constituencies are the only centres of Conservatism, and that it is only in the degraded warrens of the poor that Radicalism exists? Many, in my opinion too many, villa holders are profoundly impressed with a sublime—almost a touching—reverence for the opinions of London Society, and no political organisation has utilised and manipulated this weakness with more astuteness and ability than the Primrose League; but the great force of Conservatism in the metropolis is not all respectability or gentility. There are a few London constituencies where the villa interest is undoubtedly predominant, but that is not the popular boast of the Tory party. The Conservative party exultantly point to the great array of Conservative Members who come from the populous and poor parts of London. They are sent to Parliament—as any election agent knew—through the influence of the public-house. Those who live in miserable dwellings are the best customers of the gin palace.

Drink and overcrowding—the slum lord and the liquor lord—are closely allied. How can immoderate liquor drinking be suppressed when people live under conditions which sap vitality—whose discomfort and squalor impel a search for out-side relief? If you look at other countries you will find this corroborated. The most congested districts of New York are the regal domains of liquordom. In one place 148 saloons are situated within a space 514 yards long by 375 yards wide. In Edinburgh, St. Giles' Ward, which contains one-eleventh of the population of the city and one-third of its total crime, has within its limits 127 drinking places. It is upon the gin palace that what is called modern Conservatism rests in London. In the districts where the worst congestion and social degradation exists you have Conservative representation. I do not say, I do not wish for one moment to be supposed to infer that the Conservative gentlemen who represent these constituencies in Parliament have any sympathy with these social evils, but they are controlled by forces stronger than any amiable intentions of their own. They cannot, without the vigorous support and assistance of their own leaders, confront their most valuable allies. If anything is meant by the language of the noble Marquess when he says, speaking of the housing problem—

> "I would recommend this, that there is no surer guide to the Conservative party in trying to maintain and improve their hold on public opinion in London than that they should devote all the power they possess to getting rid of that which is really a scandal to our civilisation."

I presume it means that the noble Marquess is prepared to educate his own party on this subject, and for political reasons, and under the threat of political consequences, to interfere with vested interests and monopolies which are as much an incubus as they are a support to the Tory party. If the noble Marquess had not, by a most sublime flight of political imagination, endeavoured to make all the respectable and well-to-do classes his supporters, and all the disreputable his opponents, I should not have introduced the political element, which I gladly leave.

But let us for a while at least forget party politics. On no question is there a more unanimous expression of opinion as to urgency. On 3rd March, 1900, His Majesty, at the opening of the Boundary Street Dwellings, placed the housing question in its true light as a matter of national importance. Speaking on that occasion His Majesty said—

> "It is to be feared that the very Acts designed to combat existing evils may themselves give rise to results which were not foreseen; but one thing is certain, that the difficulties have to be surmounted. I am satisfied not only that the public conscience is awakened on the subject, but that public opinion demands, and will demand, vigorous action in cleansing the slums which disgrace our civilisation, in the erection of good and wholesome dwellings such as those around us, and in meeting the difficulties of providing house-room for the working classes at reasonable rates by easy and cheap carriage to not distant districts where rents are reasonable."

I do not feel that I need occupy your Lordships' time by enumerating the opinions of other no less competent authorities as to the pressing importance of the matter. The Commission of which the noble Marquess was a member—I well remember it, for he cross-examined me as a witness—went very exhaustively into the subject in 1884, and brought to light a terrible condition of things. Since then little or nothing has been done by Parliament, and whatever has been done—apart from private enterprise, such as the work of the industrial companies, the Guinness Trust, and last, but by no means least, Lord Rowton—has been done by the County Council.

As to the solution of this problem by private agencies, it would not be adequate. The present cost of building is in London so great that no industrial company having to pay a reasonable profit to its shareholders could erect buildings to let at such rents as the really poor can pay. All that private enterprise can do at the present moment is to level up the standard of comfort of the better class of artisans. This question, of course, touches the great provincial cities, such as Glasgow, Liverpool, and Birmingham; but I shall confine my remarks to London, with which I happen to be practically acquainted.

London presents a fourfold problem. There is the seafaring London, the great and irregularly employed population of the waterside, who serve the shipping; there is the large class who serve the public departments; there are those, great and small, who earn their livelihood in London as a great commercial centre; and lastly, there are those who belong to the numerous manufactures carried on in London. It is to be wished that many, or that some at least, of the London manufacturers could see their way to move their works out of London, and so relieve the congestion; but this must be a very partial and a very slow remedy, for external pressure, if it were to be enforced, would involve most serious questions of compensation, and it is, of course, somewhat idle for outsiders to theorise as to what the effect of removing a particular trade would be upon that trade. Since the Royal Commission sat, all these great classes of population have increased, and they are still increasing. In all directions of life we see a tendency to concentration, and in no case does this apply more forcibly than in respect to London. Every year, therefore, that the matter is allowed to drift increases the difficulty. The people are every year raising against themselves the value of property. The necessity of the poor becomes the opportunity of the landlord. A house in Southwark let twenty-five years ago for 8s. a week is now let for 15s. a week. Certain two-roomed cottages in the same neighbourhood have risen within the last twenty years from 3s. 6d. to 7s. per week. In Camberwell there are houses which are let out to three separate tenants, each of whom occupies them for only eight hours out of the twenty-four, and in the same neighbourhood when a house was recently advertised for letting there were seventy-three applications before noon on the morning when the advertisement appeared. It may be said that such instances as these are exceptional. Unless something be done, and done promptly, they will not long be exceptional.

The point is that the rise in rent, though varying in different localities and varying much under different ownership, has been practically universal. Other houses in the districts I have quoted have risen during the last few years 25 per cent. In Soho the rise has been about 16 per cent. In the Isle of Dogs—one of the poorest districts of London—rents for houses have increased 50 per cent. Even the Peabody Buildings have been recently obliged to raise their average price per room about 6 per cent. Exorbitant rents involve and are closely connected with the questions of overcrowding. At least one-tenth, or, say, 400,000 people in London live in single rooms. Between 3,000 and 4,000 live eight or more in a room, and nearly 30,000 live six or more in a room. There is an enormous class—a very poor class—earning from 6s. to 9s. a week—the women who make boxes, artificial flower makers, belt and umbrella makers, paper bag and sack makers, and workers at kindred industries, who live and work and eat and sleep with their children in a single room, and out of that wage their helplessness and necessity oblige them to pay a rent of 3s. to 4s. a week.

"There a single sordid attic holds the living
and the dead;
There the smouldering fire of fever creeps
across the rotted floor,
And the crowded couch of incest in the
warrens of the poor."

These words do not partake of the nature of exaggeration. I see the right rev. Prelate the Bishop of Winchester in his place to-night, and I feel sure that if he takes part in this discussion he will corroborate me when I say that the numerous devoted clergymen and lay-workers who consecrate their lives to the poor are daily brought face to face with this terrible condition of things.

Taking London as a whole, the average number of persons per acre is 58·76, the death-rate 18·4, and the insanity rate 1·9. Taking individual districts, St. George's-in-the-East has a population per acre of 194·69, a death-rate of 27·4, and an insanity rate of 6·9; Bethnal Green, a population per acre of 171·07, a death-rate of 24·1, and an insanity rate of 6·7; Holborn, a population per acre of 186·24, a death-rate of 27·7, and an insanity rate of 8·2; whilst the Strand, which is quite a preserve of the Conservative party, has a population per acre of 143·26, a death-rate of 30·0, and an insanity rate of 11·0. Perhaps the Strand is one of the most lurid examples, the persons per acre being nearly three times the average of London, the death-rate nearly double, and the insanity rate nearly six times as high. In London we are confronted with the strange and extraordinary

The Earl of Portsmouth.

anomaly that, under present conditions, as a district grows poorer its rents become higher. The properties in slum neighbourhoods yield a far larger return than the same investment in higher-class residential estates, and I find upon investigation that a six-roomed house in the poorer quarters of South and East London, such as Bermondsey and Bethnal Green, averages 36s. a week—£93 10s. a year—while the rents and rates combined of well-built eight-roomed villa houses in the suburban districts, fitted with baths and possessed of small gardens, do not exceed £60 a year.

At the time of the Housing Commission it was ascertained that the rents of the London poor averaged one-fourth of their income. My own cottage rents in the country, as I have no doubt is the case on many other estates, bear a proportion of at most one-eighth, in many cases one-tenth, to the wages of their occupiers. There is no sacred call to encourage private capital to be invested in slum property in London. There are plenty of persons who, fortifying themselves under a partial knowledge of political economy, complacently reconcile their consciences with their desire for high returns for their money so invested. Moreover, these property sweaters, or slum landlords, enjoy in London, under the present system, a happy immunity from the pressure of public opinion. The great estates in the country are before the world and before the public. I do not say that there is no room for improvement, but speaking broadly, and speaking, I think, the truth, public opinion acting upon local authorities would prevent owners of property sweating their tenants as they do in London; and lastly, but by no means least, if a country landlord does not provide suitable cottages for the labourers, he will not be able to keep his tenants, for we all know that farmers have now, like every other employer, to consider their labour if they wish to carry on their business satisfactorily. But these slum landlords are a subterranean class. Neither the tenants nor the public know who they are, and so they are exempt from the only influence which appeals to them—the fear of public opinion and the terror of legislative interference.

The borough of West Ham, conscious of this evil, did apply to the Local Government Board for powers to compel registration of all ownership of house property within their borough, but the Local Government Board—I think unwisely—refused permission, adopting the attitude they have recently displayed in the singularly unsympathetic replies of the President of the Local Government Board to questions put to him by various Members of the House of Commons. I am glad to see my noble friend the Marquess of Northampton in his place this evening, and I hope that he will join in my appeal to His Majesty's Government to take this matter in hand at once. It would be most unfair to class the great landlords of London with the slum owners. Speaking from my experience as a director of the Artisans' Company, I can tell your Lordships that the late Duke of Westminster, the Duke of Bedford, and the noble Lord the Marquess of Northampton's predecessor, have shown their public spirit in selling land below the market value. Indeed, my Lords, it would be impossible for industrial dwellings to be built in Central London unless the great landlords recognised it to be their duty to give facilities for housing the industrial classes upon their properties. I entirely repudiate the idea that anyone but the head of the Government can deal effectively with this question, but with your Lordships' kind indulgence I would venture to make some definite suggestions for legislative action.

In the first place, I suggest the extension of the time for the repayment of loans. At present thirty years is the period of repayment outside London. It is admitted that the working classes must be housed outside London. At a great Housing Conference at Bristol it was universally agreed that the period for the repayment of building loans, under Part III. of the Act of 1890, ought to be extended to sixty years. Mr. Balfour's proposal of main arteries along which motor powers could bring people in is impracticable, owing to the cost of the compensation, trade disturbances, etc., which it would involve. Secondly, the railway companies should be made to afford their third-class passengers identical commercial privileges with their first and second-class passengers in the shape of season tickets. If a third-class passenger on the London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway, the London, Chatham, and Dover Railway, the Great Eastern Railway, and the Great Northern Railway, who is not in a position to avail himself of workmen's trains, travels daily to and fro between two stations, he pays by the end of the year as much as a first-class season ticketholder. Thirdly, if the County Council is to make prudent provisions for housing the population, it must be able to acquire land for housing purposes independently of immediate requirements. Under the existing law, unless building operations are begun by a certain time, the land has to be parted with.

My fourth suggestion is the enforcement of the existing powers of the sanitary authorities to abate overcrowding, which would stimulate the erection of better accommodation. I will give your Lordships a concrete case. The County Council on 14th December, 1897, made a complaint to the Local Government Board against the late vestry of Bethnal Green. They also sent a copy of the Public Health Committee's report. In January, 1898, after the vestry had had an opportunity of sending in their observations on the report, formal complaint was made that the vestry had made default in executing the provisions of Section 94 of the Public Health (London) Act, 1891. The vestry then wrote to the Local Government Board to the effect that one of the bye-laws—No. 2—provided that the bye-laws should not apply to a lodging-house if and so long as the vestry deemed it unnecessary to register such a lodging-house; and the vestry proceeded to state that they did not see that much practical benefit would result from registration. The Council, in reply, pointed out to the Local Government Board that the vestry had registered no houses at all, and that the section which it was the duty of the vestry to enforce was, seven years after the commencement of the Act, entirely inoperative in Bethnal Green, and consequently that they were guilty of a default within the meaning of Section 101. The Local Government Board replied that the vestry were not in default, and, further, when requested under counsel's advice to compel the vestry to make valid bye-laws or to appoint the Council to perform such duty, they announced that the bye-law was not an invalid one, and, further, refused to receive a deputation from the Council on the subject. This action of the Local Government Board practically rendered Sections 94 and 101 of the Public Health (London) Act a dead letter. Section 94 provides that—

> "Every sanitary authority shall make and enforce such bye-laws as are requisite for the following matters, that is to say: (*a*) For fixing the number of persons who may occupy a house or part of a house which is let in lodgings or occupied by members of more than one family, and for the separation of the sexes in a house that is so let or occupied; (*b*) for the registration of houses so let or occupied; (*c*) for the inspection of such houses; (*d*) for enforcing drainage for such houses, and for promoting cleanliness and ventilation of such houses."

Section 101 provides that—

> "(1.) Where complaint is made by the County Council to the Local Government Board that a sanitary authority have made default in executing or enforcing any provision which it is their duty to execute or enforce of this Act or of any bye-laws made in pursuance thereof, the Local Government Board, if satisfied after the inquiry that the authority have been guilty of the alleged default and that the complaint cannot be remedied under the other provisions of this Act, shall make an Order limiting a time for the performance of the duty of such authority in the matter of such complaint. If such duty is not performed by the time limited in the Order, the Order may be enforced by writ of mandamus, or the Local Government Board may appoint the County Council to perform such duty. (2.) Where such appointment is made, the County Council shall, for the purpose of the execution of their duties under the said appointment, have all the powers of the defaulting sanitary authority."

Those two sections are, therefore, of vital importance in the matter of overcrowding and sanitation.

Fifthly, whichever way we look at it, we cannot ignore the fact that the question of rent is a very practical and serious one. Any way, therefore, by which we can reduce rent legitimately is of first importance. We must look, I will not say for the entire solution, but for very considerable assistance in remedying the evils, to municipal action. At the present moment the London County Council, by a special clause in its Money Act, is enabled when making a great street improvement involving the clearance of a large area, to hold the ground rents created by the leasing of the surplus or cleared land under improvement schemes as security for its sinking fund. The financial effect of this is very great. Take the Holborn and Strand improvement as an illustration. The cost of clearing the site, of purchasing all the trade interests, of making the new street, of rehousing elsewhere the labouring people displaced is estimated at £4,700,000. The commercial value of the surplus land, after making the street, if realised by the sale of the ground rents created at twenty-six years purchase, is estimated at £4,000,000, and in such case the Council would have to pay the sinking fund in the difference of of £700,000. But under the exemption to which I have alluded, the Council will be able to hold the ground rents created on the surplus property as security for the sinking fund. The estimated annual value of the ground rents is £152,000. The interest on £4,700,000 at 3 per cent. is £141,000. Instead, therefore, of there being a loss of £700,000 on which the Council would pay interest in the sinking fund, it will realise the difference in annual revenue of a profit of £11,000 a year, being the difference between £152,000 and £141,000.

In the case of land bought for housing purposes the Council has to pay sinking fund on the purchase money and interest on the cost of the houses erected upon it. I do not see why the Council should pay sinking fund on the property thus bought and built on and let out to tenants any more than on the value of the surplus property bought under the Holborn and Strand improvement, except so far as it can be shown that in the house property, the houses, being intended for the labouring classes, are subject to depreciation. The land, however, will always be there, and is a reliable asset, probably increasing in value. It would, therefore, appear sufficient, in respect of the buildings, to insist on the payment of a sinking fund on a certain proportion of their value, say one-third or one-half, which would represent this depreciation after a period of years. If this were done, there would be a great alleviation of the charge on the County Council, and the County Council would be able to let the houses at reduced rents.

To sum up, therefore, it would appear that the following improvements in the law might be taken in hand at once:—(1) To extend the time for the repayment of loans; (2) to enable the County Council to acquire land for housing purposes, independently of immediate requirements; (3) to exempt the County Council from the obligation of providing a sinking fund, except upon a portion of the cost of houses erected for the working classes; (4) to enforce Sections 94 and 101 of the Public Health (London) Act; (5) to compel registration of owners; (6) to compel railway companies to provide third-class tickets on the same scale as they grant them to first and second class passengers.

I must apologise for having trespassed so long upon the attention of your Lordships; but I cannot sit down without saying that in my opinion the responsibility for the continuance of the present evils connected with the housing of the working classes must rest upon the noble Marquess at the head of the Government. I do not say that any legislation can be devised which will completely stop these evils; but I do say that legislation, especially in the direction of strengthening municipal action, would largely alleviate them. The noble Marquess stands in a unique position, having in this House a permanent majority and in the other an exceptionally large majority. Although I am loth to appeal to party, yet I am bound to call your Lordships' attention to a singularly pregnant, and, in my opinion, profoundly true, admission which the noble Marquess made in the course of his speech on 18th December. The noble Marquess said—

> "I am aware that these matters, deeply important as they are, are not the matters which at this moment occupy our attention in the first rank."

With that statement I am in complete accord. Social questions never have claimed, and they never can claim, the first attention of the Government. I do not question the sincerity of many Conservative Lords opposite; I do not question the sincerity of the motives of the noble Marquess; but the attention of his Government is absorbed in a singularly profitless and unproductive war. It is not very difficult to understand that at the present moment they must be preoccupied — I might almost say haunted—by the awful contrasts between the results of their policy and the loss of life and the burden of taxation which it involves. The burden of taxation must be increasingly heavy. At the same time, that policy will not afford a reason to the country for inaction in this matter. When the reaction comes it will attain greater intensity when the people learn by experience and by fact that the present policy of the Government stands between them and these great social measures which in reality and not in theory touch the happiness and welfare of the people.

THE MARQUESS OF NORTHAMPTON: My Lords, I venture to respond to the appeal of the noble Earl who has just sat down, and to take part in this discussion. The subject of the housing of the working classes is one in which I have taken the deepest interest for many years, as a member of the London County Council, as a Member of the House of Commons, as son of a ground landlord, and now as a ground landlord myself. During all that time I can honestly say that I have done my best, although, like so many others, I am a party politician, to keep outside of party politics one of the gravest social problems that this country has ever had to meet. It was therefore with dismay, and I may say with strong indignation, that I read the speech of the noble Marquess the Prime Minister, which he delivered on 18th December last. In that speech he recommended the Conservatives—he did not use even the word Unionists—he recommended the Conservatives to try and maintain their strong political position in London by pressing forward the question of the housing of the working classes. It was a political speech, made, if I may be allowed to say so without offence, for party purposes. I do not think it is either unjust or unfair to impute that to the noble Marquess, considering the circumstances and the time in which that speech was delivered.

It was a speech of congratulation—well-merited congratulation—to the Conservative party and those who had taken strong steps in London to secure the return of Conservative Members to the House of Commons, and it was delivered within two months of another election in connection with the London County Council, on which body there was at that time a majority of those who were opposed in politics to the noble Marquess and his followers. The time I will not say was specially chosen, but it seems to me that it is not at all unlikely that those who were anxious for the success of the Conservative candidates—they call themselves Conservative candidates now, but we used to call them Moderates—at the County Council election asked the Prime Minister to say something which would give a helping hand to his party at that election. He may, perhaps, have asked what subjects were most important in the view of Londoners, and he would have been told that the two most important questions were those of water and housing. As regards the question of water, the noble Marquess wisely left that on one side; but he did address himself to the question of the housing of the working classes, in which he has taken an active part in the past, and with regard to which, in my opinion, he has already done, if I may be allowed to say so, a vast amount of good.

It cannot be denied that, at all events in the eyes of a vast number of people who read the speech, the housing question was lifted out of those questions which are regarded by all parties as common subject to work at, and made, by the action and by the words of the Prime Minister, distinctly a party question. The Prime Minister said the question was a living and a burning one. If it was necessary to impress upon the Conservatives of London that the question is a living and a burning one, and one that must be settled, I would venture to ask, Whose business is it to put out the fire? Surely it is that of His Majesty's Government, under the Prime Minister. The noble Marquess used strong language in regard to this question, and I thoroughly agree with what he said. He remarked that the present state of affairs was a scandal to our civilisation. Well, whose business is it to remove that scandal at the earliest possible moment? If the solution of the problem is a difficult one to find, whose business is it to bring before the country the solution that is necessary? And if we require education, whether we be

The Earl of Portsmouth.

Conservative or Liberals, is it not for the Prime Minister, of all men, to place before us what in his opinion is necessary, so that we may unite to remove the scandal to which he alluded ?

I am well aware, my Lords, that it would be impossible for His Majesty's Government during this session to bring forward remedial legislation as regards social reform. The Prime Minister must have known that when he made his speech on 18th December last. We have to pay the war bill this session, and we shall not get much beyond that. We have, however, a little period of time before us during which the question could be considered and discussed, in the hope that during next session His Majesty's Government may undertake the question and propose something to the country. The Government have been approached on the subject of the borrowing powers referred to by the noble Earl, but an official and not very sympathetic answer was returned by the President of the Board of Trade to the suggestion of the London County Council. That brings me at once to what I believe is the real difficulty of the question. Of course, there are many branches of it, to which my noble friend has alluded, but from the experience I have gained, I should say that there is one central difficulty, and that until you have surmounted that difficulty you will be able to do very little in the direction of a solution of the problem. I refer to the financial difficulty. I believe the desire of everyone is that there should be healthy buildings erected, and that the rents to be paid by the inhabitants of those buildings should not be excessive, but in proportion to the wages they earn.

May I put a case before your Lordships which will show what is the real financial difficulty ? There has been on my own estate a site which has been partially cleared for some years. The houses were pulled down because they had become so old that they were no longer habitable, not through any fault of the landlord, if I may say so, but through old age. The site has been waiting to be dealt with until the remainder of the leases fall in. The leases have now expired, and I am able to deal with the site as a whole. Then comes the question, How am I to deal with it ? In the houses, which are so old that they must be cleared away, 264 persons live. They depend for a living on being near to their work, and there is no other hole or corner for them to go to when they are turned out. The value of the land has been estimated at 9d. per foot super., which I think is an extreme figure, although I am certain I could easily get 6d. or 7d. per foot for it. I have asked one of the great industrial building companies what they will give for the land, and they say they cannot afford to pay more than 2d. per foot if a dividend of 5 per cent. is to be paid to their shareholders. This is entailed property of which I am only life tenant ; and there is a question whether legally I could act the philanthropist and make a present to London of 5d. or 6d. per foot. If I am not able to do it, I ask the House—I ask the Prime Minister—who is to pay the difference between this 2d. per foot and the 6d. or 7d. per foot which might be obtained for the land ? Some ground landlords have paid this difference ; but others will not and cannot, and nothing can be expected from them. There are a great many ground landlords in London who are corporations with a distinct trust, who are bound to get the full value of the property for which they are trustees.

We cannot depend, therefore, for a solution of this question upon the ground landlords of London, however philanthropic some of them may be. Then who is to pay the difference ? If the County Council pays the difference it will have to come out of the rates ; and as the rates increase, the industrial companies find it more and more difficult to pay 5 per cent. Their desire ultimately will be to get the land cheaper than 2d. per foot. I do not believe the County Council could afford to pay. There remains, then, only one source from which the money can come, and that is the State. I claim the Prime Minister himself in support of this principle. The Prime Minister shakes his head. Well, sixteen or seventeen years ago the noble Marquess introduced into your Lordships' House a Bill, which had our support and our strong advocacy at the time, with regard to the Millbank Prison site, the principle of which was that the site should be sold at cost value and not at market value. That is an admirable principle, and it is only on that principle that a solution of the difficulty can be found. If legislation is to be initiated, let it be drawn on these lines and introduced in the House of Lords.

Much has undoubtedly been done in the last twenty years. I remember the time when I first went round the slums of London trying to understand the subject, and I go now to the same places and find a real change. Public opinion has been roused; public bodies have been bestirring themselves; the sanitary authorities have been most active, and we owe the deepest debt of gratitude to the London County Council for having been so zealous and energetic in putting the Acts, as far as they can, into force. May I suggest one small thing which could be done immediately? There might be a conference—not a Royal Commission or a Committee, for we have had enough of them—of leading statesmen of both Houses who are interested in social subjects, and joined with them some of the most eminent members of the London County Council, with power to add to their number, to decide what are the best steps to take as regards the financial difficulty, and the financial difficulty alone. That step might be taken, as I have said, immediately. There is no necessity to wait for another session of Parliament; and the appointment of such a conference would, at all events, be an earnest to the country that His Majesty's Government desires to solve the problem. I have stated to your Lordships what I believe to be the central difficulty of the problem; but I did not rise principally for that purpose. I rose to protest in the strongest possible manner against this question, which affects the health and comfort of hundreds and thousands of our fellow citizens and all possibility of decency and morality and of the innocence and purity of children, being made the subject of an appeal to party prejudices and party feelings.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND LORD PRIVY SEAL (The Marquess of SALISBURY): My Lords, I confess that I am a little puzzled by the morality which has been preached to me by the noble Earl who introduced this subject, and by the noble Marquess who has just sat down. The offence with which I am charged is that I have urged my friends to exercise their influence in all departments of life in order to procure the alleviation of that which is admitted to be a very great evil; that I urged, as the chief motive for doing so, that those who served the public best would obtain the greatest influence over the public; and that they would not only be doing the work of the country, but would also be doing the work of their party by supporting a movement so much required at this time. Is that immoral? Surely it is legitimate to use towards those whom you are exhorting any innocent and legitimate motive which may make the exhortations you address to them more effective and more permanent. I cannot conceive such a curious counsel of perfection as that any statesman, going about as we do in these days, exhorting our political friends, should be bound as a matter of morality to abstain from recommending anything which may do any good to the social organism. That is not only a novel, but a perfectly ridiculous contention.

Our object is to induce all the people we can to do all the good they can; and we are acting up to a well-known course of political wisdom when we represent to all our political friends that the way to gain influence with the people of England is to deserve it. I cannot see anything wrong in the exhortation which I have made; and until I hear it condemned on some higher authority I shall continue to make such exhortations. I am convinced that very, very much of the progress we have made in this country has resulted from mixed motives. No doubt it has often resulted from an earnest and honest desire to do good—a desire in all classes of society to obtain that good and honest influence with their fellow citizens which has been so conspicuous and salutary a mark of public life in England. It is only on account of this unfortunate exhortation, which has sinned against the prescriptions of the new ethics, that I have at all been specially connected with this subject. The noble Marquess seems to have thought that I specially pledged the Imperial Government to interfere in the undoubted difficulties of this question.

I did nothing of the kind. If he will read my speech again he will see that I made no reference to the Imperial Government. Whatever you desire that the Imperial Government should do in the future, it must be as the result of new determinations and new departures.

Up to this time the work which has been done to improve the housing of the working classes has been done either by private enterprise or by local authorities. Both one and the other have joined to undertake the work in the past, but, as we know, it has in the main been done by private enterprise. The Act passed in 1886 and other Acts have, to some extent, led to local authorities using the same resources which they possess in order to push forward the same objects. But I cannot at this moment remember any case in which the Imperial Exchequer has been used for this purpose. I am not expressing any opinion as to what Parliament may think right to do in the future. The question is full of difficulties. I only wish to say that nothing in the past justifies the noble Lord in charging us with neglecting our duty. I do not know that I can go into the multifarious points raised by the two noble Lords, for this particular reason. They have in vague language recommended certain alterations in the existing law which they think would be salutary. If they will put those alterations into a Bill and introduce it, I may have a chance of confidently expressing an opinion on the subject. But there would be nothing more dangerous than for me to express an opinion on the vague outlines of legislation which the two noble Lords have suggested. When we came to close quarters and tried to improve the law we should find we had been pursuing different objects, and they would be loud-mouthed in their condemnation of us for having led them to think they had our support.

THE MARQUESS OF NORTHAMPTON: My only suggestion was a conference.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: It was not the noble Marquess's only suggestion. I hardly know how I can speak with sufficient respect of such a proposal from one whom I respect so much as I do the noble Marquess. But my impression is that it might be useful in the Garden of Eden, not in this comparatively wicked world. The conference would be filled by people belonging to different political and social schools, some desiring to oppose a political enemy, some desiring to grind their own axes, and I feel sure that, little as has been produced by committees or commissions, a conference would be more fruitless still.

I want to call the attention of the noble Lord to one subject which I think he and his friends should bear more in mind. He spoke with great clearness and force, resting upon his own valuable experience on the difficulties which we have to face, and I think he naturally pointed out that they are all summed up in one big phrase—namely, the financial difficulty. First, he most justly asked where we were to get the money. There are speculators outside who say that the existing owners of property in London should find the money. But I do not think the noble Lord joins in that view, and I certainly should not urge him to modify his opinions. Who, then, will do it? Not the County Council. The noble Lord knows too well the state of the rates in London and the height to which they have risen to think that any substantial assistance can be obtained from that quarter. Of the Imperial Treasury I will say nothing, for the reason I have just given, that I do not wish to anticipate anything that may possibly be proposed by my colleagues next year. He will readily see that the present state of the Imperial Exchequer is not one to encourage the undertaking of a perfectly novel enterprise in a matter of metropolitan expenditure. At present we are practically relying to a certain extent on the local authorities, which I think have behaved very well, and we rely largely, as we have always done, on private enterprise. That has been our reliance from the first, and unless you can find some adequate substitute for it I fear that to the end, in some form or other, private enterprise must be our main reliance. But then I think the noble Lord said that capital does not seek metropolitan investment—that is to say, people are not anxious to invest their money in that way, and the consequence is investment falls into the hands of people who require larger remuneration for their advances, and are much less subject to the influence of public opinion in the way they carry out their designs. That was a very wise observation, I entirely concur in it, and I think it is one of the most disastrous circumstances of this housing of the working classes question that some of the best friends of the poor who desire the greatest efforts to be made nevertheless cannot restrain from so bespattering with abuse everyone who takes part in this species of investment. That habit of denouncing everyone and calling them slum landlords certainly does revolt, and has the effect of driving everyone away. People prefer to put their money where similar abuse is not the result of their investment, so investors step in of the very worst kind who require the utmost remuneration for their advances, and are not exposed to the salutary influence of public opinion on which the noble Marquess dwelt with so much force and justice.

I am unable to go into much detail on this matter. The Government are deeply sensible of the great importance of the question, deeply anxious to do whatever can be done to remedy this great evil. But two things are necessary: one is time and the other information. With respect to time, if the noble Lord will glance for a moment at the contemporary history of the House of Commons he will see that matters are not proceeding with such absolute smoothness as to induce us to hope that we shall be able at an early period to deal with so complicated a question as this. I am afraid that, as far as I can see, this session is full. Next year I do not know what may happen. I cannot make any pledges, but my right hon. friend the President of the Local Government Board gives me hope that we may be able to do something towards the alleviation of this great evil. We are by no means blind to it. We do not doubt that much may be done, nor are we blind to the enormous and portentous difficulties which surround it at every step. It is not only financial difficulty; that is bad enough, but there are other economic difficulties—the danger by relying too much upon novel, and you may say illegitimate, methods of driving out those who are your natural support and assistance, and finding yourself left at last unable to carry out what you intended by the action of public funds, and deprived by the want of confidence which you have inspired of the support which at all times you have a right to look to from private enterprise. These are great difficulties. We have much in the way of information to obtain that we have hardly obtained yet. We are conscious of all the various obstacles that lie in our path. But the fact that we have not, in the circumstances that surround us, seen our way to introduce any measure this year, cannot, I think, in the mind of any fair-judging person, be proof that we do not heartily share the eagerness of the noble Lord for some remedy in this matter.

May I say, with regard to Millbank, that I entirely hold the views I expressed nearly twenty years ago? But Millbank was a special windfall, and there was a special chance of really doing something very effective. I did all I could in this House, but it was a time of great political trouble, and it was impossible to pass anything in the other House. I do not think the example of Millbank will help us very much in our future difficulties. For instance, it might have been well for us to sell Millbank at cost price instead of actual price, because it belonged to the Government. But I am afraid it would be no good for us to take that bit of land belonging to the noble Marquess to which he has referred, saying we would sell it at cost price instead of actual price. We cannot take his property, although we might in 1885 very profitably have taken the property which actually fell at the disposal of the Government. I deeply regret we could not do that, and I am afraid that that opportunity cannot be regained. I can only promise the noble Lord that we will give our earnest attention to the subject, and I very much desire that it may be possible for the Imperial Government to do something to lighten the efforts of private enterprise and the local authorities to bring this great evil to an end.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: My Lords, I am sure the House is indebted to the two noble Lords behind me for their valuable speeches on this important subject. I will not go into the party charges which were made by the noble Earl against the noble Marquess the Prime Minister. I readily confess that for some time past London has been thoroughly in harmony with the views of the noble Marquess, and perhaps for that reason has special claim to have its social needs carefully considered by the Government, of which the noble Marquess is the head. I do not think my noble friend charged any moral offence against the noble Marquess or his party for having urged on the electors, whether at Imperial elections or local elections, the importance of this subject, or for having promised it their early attention; but I think we have some reason to find fault with the noble Marquess and his Government inasmuch as, having urged this important subjects on the electors, and having entered into solemn promises with regard to it, they now face Parliament without making any proposal whatever on this subject. The noble Marquess invited us to put our suggested alterations of the law into the form of a Bill. That is an observation which the noble Marquess generally makes in regard to all suggestions coming from this side of the House. My idea of constitutional practice is that important suggestions of this sort should be brought before the House by the Government, who should make themselves responsible for those proposals. It is clear that no private Members' Bill, even if it does receive the assent of this House, has much chance in these days of going through the House of Commons. Again, the noble Marquess spoke of this difficulty of, and want of precedent for, using Imperial funds for the benefit of London. He admitted that, in the case of Millbank Prison, national property was sold very much below the value which it would have fetched in the open market, and therefore to that extent national money was applied.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: What I said was that I proposed that something of the sort should be done, but the House of Commons refused its sanction.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: At any rate, the noble Marquess proposed that that course should be taken, and to that extent he then expressed his agreement with the proposal that a certain sum of money from national funds should be applied for this purpose. I would remind the noble Marquess that his own Government took a very different view when they came to deal with the question of assisting the holders of agricultural land in the country. The noble Marquess's Government relieved the payers of agricultural rates of half of their burden out of the Imperial taxpayers' pockets, and I should like to remind the noble Marquess also that by reason of that particular Act there has been thrown on London a burden of £467,000 a year, which goes entirely into the pockets of the agricultural ratepayers, and of which sum London only gets back as its share between £3,000 and £4,000. I think that if the London taxpayers contribute in this large proportion to the rates in the country, it is only reasonable to expect that something should be given out of Imperial funds to London, whose pressing needs are quite as great.

The noble Marquess says there are two things lacking—time and information. I venture to enter a protest against the notion that information is necessary on this subject. You had that most distinguished and hard-working Commission of 1884, which accumulated a vast amount of information and made a valuable Report, many of the recommendations of which have never been given effect to. You have had inquiries on the subject by local authorities in almost every big town throughout the United Kingdom, and a large amount of valuable information has been amassed which is at the hands of those who choose to seek it. As to the question of time, nobody knows better than I do the difficulties in that respect in the House of Commons, but here we have plenty of time.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: What is the use of that?

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: At any rate, if the noble Marquess introduced a Bill into the House of Lords the country would have the advantage of knowing what the views of the Government were. We on this side should give it a cordial welcome, and if the Bill met the difficulties of the situation and received the approval of the nation, I think it would be found that it would not meet with much opposition or discussion in the House of Commons. This debate has turned rather on London, but this is a subject which does not apply to London alone. It is far more wide-reaching than that. It is perfectly true that terrible statistics may be obtained from London, but I think that from individual places in the country quite as startling figures can be procured. Take the Census Return of 1891, and you will find it there stated that one-ninth of the whole population of England and Wales—11·23 per cent.—were living in overcrowded conditions. In Glasgow 117,000 persons lived in one-room tenements and 322,000 in two-room tenements; that is to say, in Glasgow rather more than three-fourths of the population lived either in one or two-roomed tenements. The statistics show that of the cases of infectious diseases admitted into the hospitals in Glasgow one-room tenements provided 86 per 10,000 of the population and two-room tenements 72 per 10,000 of the population, whilst the average for the whole city was 50 per 10,000 of the population. That, it seems to me, is a very startling proof of the danger which people run who live in these small and crowded tenements.

Just consider the conditions of living of a family occupying one or two rooms. Those conditions are bound to produce disease, immorality, and distress. If your Lordships would look at the statistics relating to England you would see what a terribly large number of deaths from phthisis occur in these small and crowded tenements. The prescription of any doctor for either a weakly infant or a consumptive patient would be good food and plenty of fresh air; but it is impossible for these poor creatures, who live in the crowded slums of our great cities, to obtain fresh air. The noble Marquess suggested that the noble Earl should put his proposed alterations of the law into a Bill in the hope that the Government might give them favourable consideration. Last year in the House of Commons a Housing Act was passed which undoubtedly contained, at any rate, one important provision—the one which enabled local authorities to buy land outside as well as inside the areas they governed. On that Bill were raised three if not four of the alterations suggested by the noble Earl to-night; but those proposals were opposed in the House of Commons by the noble Marquess's Government, and rejected in every instance on division by very considerable majorities.

In spite of what the noble Marquess has said, I am going to suggest what seem to me legislative remedies which would facilitate a settlement of this subject. I would first suggest the extension of the powers of local authorities. They should have power to buy land and to hold it for future needs. I mean that when a local authority has the opportunity of acquiring land suitable for the purpose of housing, and at a cheap price, it should be able to buy that land instead of being compelled to wait until the erection of more buildings, and the extension of railways or tramways, make it infinitely more valuable, and therefore far more costly to the ratepayers to purchase. That proposal was made in the House of Commons last year and rejected, the voting being 204 to 132. The next proposal I have to make is one which I know will not commend itself to the noble Marquess, because we have differed on this subject on other Bills—I refer to the waiver of the 10 per cent. that is insisted upon for compulsory purchase. I must say that, in my opinion, in cases such as the buying up of necessary land in great cities for the benefit of the public, this is a requirement that should be waived.

I would suggest the extension of the period for the repayment of loans, and allow the local authorities to use the land they acquire as an asset against the debt that may be incurred. There is a considerable hardship under the present system. Take the case of London. In London the money is borrowed for sixty years. At the end of that period the London County Council will come into absolute possession of the houses and the land on which they stand. That is a very fine thing for posterity, but it is a little hard on the present generation, and still harder on the occupants of those houses, that they should be compelled to pay for the building and the land in sixty years. It is a very moderate proposal to suggest that, in the case of the land, at any rate, the period of repayment should be extended to one hundred years. That proposal was brought before the President of the Local Government Board only a month ago, and he looked at it with a very unfavourable eye, and, if I remember rightly, suggested to the deputation that it seemed to him a penny-wise and pound-foolish policy.

I would also give local authorities the power of purchasing at something like cost price disgracefully insanitary and bad buildings, where the owner will not put them in good condition. I do not say that they should be purchased at prairie value, but I confess I am getting towards it in that case. This is a perfectly fair proposal, on the same principle that the vendor of unwholesome or deleterious food has the food confiscated, and has to bear all the loss himself. It is desirable that the local authority should be able to buy the property at such a price as to enable them to build on the land houses suitable to accommodate the class of people who were on it before, and at a rent which those poor persons can pay. It is also very desirable that the owners of this class of property should be registered. They are in many cases absolutely unknown to the tenants, who often do not even know the agent, but only the sub-agent or the collector of the rents. Another remedy is to be found in increased means of cheap transit. Something has been done with regard to that. In 1883 the Cheap Trains Act was passed, and from that Act good results have ensued. I will read a passage from a Report of the Housing Committee of the London County Council on that point, which, I think, is very interesting and significant, and also very creditable to the particular railway company mentioned—

> "In 1898 the Housing Committee reported that in strong contrast to the cessation of the building of workmen's dwellings in central London was the very remarkable increase in the number of cottage dwellings outside the county, especially along the Great Eastern Railway, where, owing to low fares and a good train service, many thousands of cottages had been erected."

It is interesting to go down into Essex and see the way in which whole districts have gradually grown up owing to good means of transit. By encouraging increased means of transit you distinctly encourage private enterprise. I do not go the length of thinking that the whole housing problem can be solved by an improvement in the means of transit, but that question is indissolubly bound up with it. In any future tube railway or tramway schemes Parliament should see that they connect with one another. I think these are questions in which the Legislature can help very much. Above all, I do say it is most desirable that the tramway system should be under one great central authority, which I am afraid will have to be the London County Council. They are already in possession south of the Thames, and the experience of last year shows that they are likely to conduct that great enterprise with credit to themselves, with benefit to the inhabitants, and with considerable advantage to the employees.

There should also, in my view, be a recasting of the rating system. I am not going into the whole question of the taxation of ground values now, but it has been calculated that the ground values of London amount to no less than £15,000,000 a year, and a shilling in the pound on that would produce £750,000. I confess that I am quite prepared to see a general separation of ground values and a special rate put upon them. It is said that the result would be that the cost would fall on the occupier. If so, I do not see that the owner has very much cause to complain. But if that be not the case I think ground rents are a very fair object for taxation. It is argued that it is impossible to separate the value of the land from the value of the buildings that are upon it. That is a view not held by many eminent valuers in London. I might quote many authorities who are not of that opinion. At any rate, it is a thing which might be tried. There should be a valuation from time to time of unoccupied land. At this moment there are in London 14,000 acres of unoccupied land which might be valuable for building purposes. These lands are held nominally as agricultural lands. They are rated on the agricultural basis, but the owners are simply holding them over for enhanced prices. There could be no difficulty in valuing these lands from time to time at their actual selling value for the purpose of rating. This would bring a considerable sum into the county exchequer. It would do something more, for it would probably have the effect of bringing some of these lands into the market for building purposes.

These are, roughly, the suggestions I would make for possible legislation in the future. The subject is a very important one to everybody, but it is important, above all, to the woman of this country. The man who lives in a slum dwelling probably has to go a considerable way to his work and can be away from the dwelling the greater portion of the day. But think of the woman who has to do all the work of the establishment—the washing, cooking, etc., and the caring for the sick—all in one room. That seems to me a very terrible thing to contemplate, and it reacts in a further way; for how can women, living in such conditions, produce healthy strong children, and how can children reared under such conditions grow up healthy and moral? We hear a great deal about the Imperial mission of this country, and nobody believes in it more strongly than I do; but the first thing we should aim at in endeavouring to secure the success of that mission is that the children of the country should grow up happy, healthy, strong, and moral citizens.

House adjourned at half-past Six of the clock, to Monday next, a quarter before Eleven of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Friday, 8*th March*, 1901.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS (STANDING ORDER 62 COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order No. 62 has been complied with, viz.:—

West Surrey Water Bill.

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time.

BRITISH GAS LIGHT COMPANY BILL.

TAFF VALE RAILWAY BILL.

TENDRING HUNDRED WATER BILL.

Read a second time, and committed.

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).

Mr. HALSEY reported from the Committee of Selection, That, in pursuance of the provisions of the Private Legislature Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, they had selected the following Fifteen Members to form the Parliamentary Panel of Members of this House to act as Commissioners:—Mr. Channing, Mr. Colville, Sir Charles Dalrymple, Mr. J. E. Gordon, Mr. Charles Hobhouse, Mr. Alfred Hutton, Mr. Brynmor Jones, Sir John Kinloch, Mr. A. K. Loyd, Mr. Macartney, Mr. Pym, Mr. Renshaw, Mr. A. H. Smith, Sir Walter Thorburn, and Mr. Eugene Wason.

PETITIONS.

BEER BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Bassetlaw; Bewdley; and Welbeck; to lie upon the Table.

CHURCH DISCIPLINE.

Petition from Wolverhampton, for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (HIGHER GRADE AND EVENING CONTINUATION SCHOOLS).

Petitions for alteration of Law, from Swansea; Blackpool; and Glusburn; to lie upon the Table.

PARLIAMENT (KING'S DECLARATION).

Petition from Clackmannan, for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table.

POOR LAW OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1896.

Petitions for alteration of Law, from Macclesfield; and Sheerness and Minster; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Reigate; and Bideford; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Aberdeen (three); York (two); Largs; Carlisle (four); Plymouth; Stepney Green; Brixton; Durham; Bridlington; Bideford; and Greenock; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Greenock; Gourock (five); Ashton; and Johnstone; to lie upon the Table.

BRITISH MUSEUM.

Petition of the Trustees of the British Museum (King's Recommendation signified), for grant in aid; referred to the Committee of Supply.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

UNFUNDED DEBT.

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 5th March; *Sir Edgar Vincent*]; to lie upon the Table.

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

Copy presented, of Annual Report of Proceedings under the Tithe Acts, Copyhold Act, 1894, Inclosure Acts, and other Acts for the year 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES.)

Copy presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, No. 2559 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

NAVY (WATER-TUBE BOILERS) (COMMITTEE).

Copy presented, of Interim Report of the Committee appointed by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to consider certain questions respecting modern Boilers for Naval purposes [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

REVENUE (COLLECTION OF TAXES).

Return ordered, "showing for each of the three Kingdoms (1) the amount charged for Income Tax, Land Tax, and Inhabited House Duty for the financial years 1898, 1899, and 1900; and (2) the amounts and percentage of same collected in each country by the 31st day of January and the 28th day of February, respectively, in each of the said years."—(*Mr. M'Crae.*)

BRITISH MUSEUM.

Return ordered, "of Account of the Income and Expenditure of the British Museum (Special Trust Funds) for the year ending the 31st day of March, 1901; and Return of the number of Persons admitted to visit the Museum and the British Museum (Natural History) in each year from 1895 to 1900, both years inclusive; together with a Statement of the Progress made in the arrangement and description of the Collections, and an Account of Objects added to them in the year 1900."—(*Mr. John Morley.*)

QUESTIONS.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—NUMBER OF BOER PRISONERS.

CAPTAIN BAGOT (Westmoreland, Kendal): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he can state how many of the enemy have been taken prisoners since the commencement of the war in South Africa, how many have been released on parole or otherwise, and how many are now in our hands as prisoners of war.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): Up to the 9th February the total number of the enemy taken prisoners was 16,082; of these 447 are on parole, and 293 have died.

CAMPS OF CONCENTRATION.

MR. JOHN ELLIS (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can now inform the House as to the number and situation of the camps of concentration in South Africa, both in the Colonies and the two late Republics, the number of the men, women, and children in each camp, and the actual nature of the shelter provided; whether medical attendance is provided, particularly for the women and children; and whether relatives and others desiring to mitigate the situation of those confined in these camps are allowed reasonable access to them.

MR. BRODRICK: I am afraid I have no information to add to that which I have already given to the hon. Member. I do not think the hon. Member need be under any anxiety about these people. [Mr. ELLIS rose, but resumed his seat amid Ministerial cries of "Order."] Lord Kitchener telegraphed to me that he himself has gone into the question and finds that the people in the laagers are all contented and comfortable, and we must rely on his assurance.

MR. JOHN ELLIS: I am much obliged to the right hon. Gentleman. I meant no discourtesy by my interruption, but allow me to say I asked him for facts, not for opinions.

AN HON. MEMBER: "A stream of facts."

CIVIL APPOINTMENTS IN THE TRANSVAAL.

MR. JOHN ELLIS: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War what were the specific appointments made by Lord Roberts to posts of a civil nature in the Transvaal, and what were the terms of such appointments in respect of duration and remuneration; whether the persons in question have either discharged any of the duties of their posts or received any remuneration; and, in the latter case, against whom it has been charged.

MR. BRODRICK: There is no information at the War Office which would enable me to give the hon. Member a list of the civil appointments in question. Any such appointments made by Lord Roberts were temporary and terminable when the military administration gives place to civil government. The persons so appointed have, I believe, discharged their duties and received their remuneration. Any expenses of administration which cannot be defrayed from local revenues are provisionally borne by Army funds.

ST. JOHN AMBULANCE BRIGADE—WAR GRATUITIES.

SIR FREDERICK MILNER (Nottinghamshire, Bassetlaw): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether it has been officially decided that members of the St. John Ambulance Brigade who have served in South Africa are not entitled to the war gratuity that was by a recent Order awarded to all classes of troops engaged in the war; and whether, seeing that the members of the St. John Ambulance Brigade have been working with the Royal Army Medical Corps, doing the same duties and bearing the same risks and hardships, and also seeing that fifty out of the 1,900 members of the St. John Ambulance Brigade serving in South Africa have died in the execution of their duty, he will reconsider this decision.

MR. BRODRICK: The answer to the first paragraph of the question is in the affirmative. The war gratuity is a military gratuity, originally intended as a substitute for prize-money, and is not applicable to civilians employed on specific terms during the war. I may remind the hon. Member that members of the St. John Ambulance Brigade are paid at considerably higher rates than the corresponding ranks of the Royal Army Medical Corps.

SOLDIERS' UNCLAIMED BALANCES.

MR. KEARLEY (Devonport): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he will state the amount of soldiers' unclaimed balances for the past year, and what portion of these has been handed over to the Patriotic Fund Commissioners.

*THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE WAR OFFICE (Lord STANLEY, Lancashire, Westhoughton): Unclaimed balances are advertised for six years before they are transferred to the Patriotic Fund. As the balances of any one year are kept in hand for two years before the account is closed, and the balance is invested, it is not possible to state the amount of unclaimed balances for the past year.

SOLDIERS' KITS—LOSSES ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

*MR. MANSFIELD (Lincolnshire, Spalding): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether, in the case of wounded soldiers whose small kit has been lost in the field or left behind at Cape Town according to instructions, on their reporting themselves fit for duty a new set of small kit is supplied to them but is deducted from their pay: if so, can he state whether the deduction is made in accordance with an Army Order, and will he consider the advisability of cancelling such order.

*LORD STANLEY: Attention was called to this matter. I have had the regulations amended so that a soldier's necessaries lost, prematurely worn out, or damaged, on active service are replaced at public expense. Instructions were issued to this effect some little time ago.

PROVISION FOR INVALIDED SOLDIERS.

MR. LEVY (Leicestershire, Loughborough): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he is aware that Private Woolley, a Reserve man, formerly of the Royal Horse Artillery, now resident at Leicester, who was invalided home from South Africa, and is certified by the military medical authorities to be practically blind, very helpless, mentally dull, subject to fits, and needing constant care and attention, has been granted a temporary pension of 1s. per day for twelve months; and whether that is in accordance with the practice of the War Office in such cases.

*LORD STANLEY: Woolley has been awarded a pension of 1s. a day for twelve months in the first instance by the Chelsea Commissioners. At the end of that period he will be re-examined and his case reconsidered. His character while with the Colours was indifferent. He is stated to have been addicted to drink, and was frequently reported for other offences. While in the Reserve he was three times convicted by the Civil power for drunkenness and assault. As there is no evidence that Woolley's disability is the result of military service, the pension in question is the highest that can be awarded.

WAR OFFICE MESSENGERS.

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether it has been brought to his notice that a certain number of Crimean and Indian Mutiny veterans serving as messengers in the War Office were recently retired at sixty instead of sixty-five years of age, the Treasury age limit, a limit still applicable to messengers in other Government offices; and whether, seeing that these men are now reduced to their Army pension of a few pence a day, he will consider the advisability of granting them some small increase of pension to keep them from penury in their declining years.

*LORD STANLEY: The case of these men has been explained to the House on a previous occasion. In the War Office it is essential that the messengers should be active and able-bodied. It was accordingly found necessary to fix the age for retirement of temporary messengers at sixty. All such men who have fifteen years service as such receive a gratuity on discharge in addition to the Army pension of which they may be in receipt. I am afraid that it is not possible to do anything more for them as suggested.

CHINA EXPEDITION—PAY OF OFFICERS.

MR. AGG-GARDNER (Cheltenham): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he will explain why certain officers, who have been lent to the Home Government for service in the China Expedition, should draw less pay and allowances when in China than they did while on service in India.

*MR. BRODRICK: Officers of the Indian Staff Corps continue to draw Indian rates of pay while serving in China. Officers of the British Army leaving India would naturally revert to British rates of pay and China allowances, and these might be less than Indian rates.

ILLEGAL TRAWLING—REPORTS BY COASTGUARDMEN.

MR. CATHCART WASON (Orkney and Shetland): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if there are any objections to coastguardmen reporting illegal trawling to the nearest fishery officer.

THE CIVIL LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. PRETYMAN, Suffolk, Woodbridge): The coastguards are directed by their instructions to report to the nearest fishery officer any breach of the Fishery Laws which may come under their notice in the ordinary course of their duty.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGES AND STATE GRANTS.

*SIR FRANCIS POWELL (Wigan): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he intends, in accordance with the precedent of 1896, to appoint Commissioners to visit and report upon the University Colleges receiving grants from the State before any fresh allocations of the grants in 1902; and, if so, whether he can say when and by whom such visitations will be made.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir M. HICKS BEACH, Bristol, W.): Yes, Sir. Dr. H. G. Woods, formerly President of Trinity College, Oxford, and Dr. Alexander Hill, Master of Downing College, Cambridge, have consented to serve as Commissioners. Arrangements for the visitation are now being made, and it will begin at an early date.

*SIR FRANCIS POWELL: I presume the officials and those interested in the conduct of the colleges will have an opportunity of stating their case.

SIR M. HICKS BEACH: Certainly.

MR. PALMER (Salisbury): Will the visitations be extended to other colleges of a similar nature, which have not yet received the grants?

SIR M. HICKS BEACH said that any college doing what was properly university work would be included in the inquiry. If any college which had not received any grant sent in an application from which it appeared that it came within the rule he would consider it.

THE NEW COINAGE.

*MR. EVELYN CECIL (Aston Manor): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether, in view of the widespread condemnation of the portrait of Queen Victoria on the coinage first used in 1887, he has satisfied himself that the designing of the new coinage has been entrusted to the best possible artistic workmanship; and, if not, whether he will order designs from such a source, or else consider the advisability of retaining the present designs on the reverse side of the new coins.

SIR M. HICKS BEACH: The task of designing the effigy of His Majesty on the new coinage has been entrusted to Mr. De Saulles, the engraver to the Mint. I think the coinage of 1887 is a warning against entrusting this work to an artist unaccustomed to coinage and engraving. The whole question of the designs for the new coinage is receiving my careful attention. I do not, as at present advised, think that it will be found desirable to introduce many changes in the present designs on the reverses.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS—INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether he can say at what date he expects to be able to circulate the Annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories and Workshops.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. RITCHIE, Croydon): I am afraid I cannot fix a date; but the Chief Inspector assures me that he is making every effort to get his Report out as early as possible.

FATALITY AT HOOTON'S FACTORY, NOTTINGHAM.

*MR. TENNANT (Berwickshire): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the death of George Benton, which took place on 1st February at Messrs. Hooton's factory, Nottingham; and will he inquire whether this factory was erected before or after 1st January, 1896, and whether, in view of the nature of the accident, he will consider the advisability of applying the provisions of Section 9 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1895, to all factories containing self-acting machines irrespective of the date of the erection of such factories.

*MR. RITCHIE: I have made inquiries about this accident, and find that the factory and the machine that caused the accident were erected long before 1896. The suggestion of the hon. Member was considered and found to be impracticable in 1895; and I do not think that the House would be likely to accept it now. Moreover, it would not, so far as I can see, have prevented the accident in question. Fencing will, however, be erected which should prevent the possibility of a similar accident in future from this particular machine.

METROPOLITAN POLICE AT DEVONPORT DOCKYARD.

MR. KEARLEY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the extra allowance recently conceded to married constables of the Metropolitan police to meet the high rent payable in the Metropolis will be extended to the Metropolitan police serving in the Government establishments at Devonport, where house rent is as high, and the men are obliged by the regulations to live within ten minutes walk of their place of duty.

*MR. RITCHIE: No, Sir; the case of the Metropolitan police in the dockyards at Devonport was considered when the whole matter was before me, but the conditions under which they serve there are very different from those prevailing in London. There is no regulation requiring them to live within ten minutes walk of their place of duty.

PURE BEER.

MR. ALFRED DAVIES (Carmarthen Boroughs): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if his attention has been called to the unanimous resolution passed by the Carmarthenshire Chamber of Agriculture as to the necessity of a Bill being passed to secure purity in beer, by laying down therein the ingredients of which beer may be composed, and the compelling of brewers at regular intervals to make a return of beer brewed and ingredients used; and, if so, whether he can assure the House of his intention to introduce promptly a Bill carrying out the purport of this resolution.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): I have seen a copy of the resolution referred to, but the matter is not one which concerns the Board of Trade.

EVENING SCHOOL CODE LIMIT.

MR. WHITLEY (Halifax): I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education if he will confer with the Treasury as to the possibility of removing the 17s. 6d. limit from the Evening Schools Code, and also as to providing a specific grant for physical instruction in evening continuation schools.

THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Sir J. GORST, Cambridge University): The Board of Education cannot undertake to make an application to the Treasury for the removal of the 17s. 6d. limit from the Evening Schools Code. A grant is already made for physical instruction.

VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM—DUKE OF SAXE-COBURG'S COLLECTION.

SIR MANCHERJEE BHOWNAGGREE (Bethnal Green, N.E.): I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education whether the Oriental collection of His Royal Highness the late Duke of Saxe-Coburg has been lent to the Victoria and Albert Museum; and, if so, what is proposed to be done with it, and whether it is intended to lend it for a time to the Bethnal Green Museum for exhibition.

SIR J. GORST: The Oriental collection of the late Duke of Saxe-Coburg, consisting of Indian arms, Chinese porcelain, and other objects of art, has been lent to the Victoria and Albert Museum. It will be exhibited during the summer in the Indian Section of the Museum, and afterwards in the Bethnal Green Museum.

LLANELLY CROWN LANDS—BELGIAN ENTERPRISE.

MR. ALFRED DAVIES: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether a Belgian company has secured a lease of a large area of Crown land at Llanelly noted for containing coal of a highly bituminous nature which is indispensable for the manufacture of steel, a staple industry of that district, the company intending to employ Belgian workmen and to ship the coal to Belgium; and, if so, whether he can inform the House if the covenants of the lease have been broken so as to enable him to cancel it, even if it be a sub-let, or if he can adopt some action which will prevent the steel manufacturers of Llanelly from being deprived of coal necessary for their manufacturing purposes, and British colliers from losing employment; and, in the event of the Crown Commissioner for Woods and Forests not being able to cancel the lease, whether, in the interests of British traders and British workmen, he can assure the House that in the future no Crown land will be sub-let or let to any foreign company.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.): The bulk of this area of Crown coal was let to some gentlemen at Llanelly in 1896 for a term of twenty-one years. They never succeeded in raising sufficient capital in Wales or England to work it properly, although they made great efforts to do so, and it consequently remained unworked. Recently an arrangement was come to by them with a Belgian gentleman who was willing to provide the necessary capital, and he has taken an assignment of the lease. The Commissioner of Woods has agreed to grant him a new lease for an extended term when he shall have sunk certain deep shafts. This agreement cannot be cancelled by the Commissioner. I cannot give an absolute promise of the nature suggested in the last paragraph, but such cases are not, I hope, likely to recur, and British subjects will, other things being equal, always be accepted as tenants in preference to foreigners or foreign companies.

LONDON AND PARIS MAIL.

CAPTAIN NORTON: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether, having regard to the negotiations now proceeding between the French and English postal authorities for improving the London and Paris mail services, the Postmaster General will direct the attention of the French postal authorities to the practical advantages business firms and correspondents generally in France and Great Britain — more especially in the provinces—would derive if the morning mail were started from London and Paris at 7.30 or 8 a.m. instead of at 9 a.m.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The question of an earlier departure of the day mail between London and Paris in both directions has already been fully discussed between the British and French Post Offices; and it is found that the change would in each case be attended by drawbacks of a serious nature. The hon. Member may, however, like to know that, as a result of a recent conference, the French authorities have, at the instance of the Postmaster General, made special arrangements for accelerating the arrival in Paris of letters sent from London by the day service in order that they may be distributed by an earlier delivery than heretofore.

IRELAND—CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD.

MR. JOHN O'DONNELL (Mayo, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state the number of acres of land purchased by the Congested Districts Board in Ireland since the 1st April, 1900; the aggregate sum of purchase money paid; the average number of years purchase given; and the counties within which the transfer of property took place.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (MR. WYNDHAM, Dover): Since the date mentioned, the Board has purchased 5,711 acres in the counties of Donegal, Mayo, and Galway for the sum of £13,480, including landlords' and tenants' interests. In some cases the lands purchased were untenanted, in some tenanted, and in others partly tenanted; the number of years purchase cannot, therefore, be computed. In some cases the lands were subject to head rents, quit rents, and tithe rent charges, and in others they were free of all rents or charges whatsoever; and the latter, of course, commanded a higher price than the former. The Board is negotiating for the purchase of other estates comprising 13,390 acres.

POLICE MALPRACTICES AT MULLOUGH.

MAJOR JAMESON (Clare, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that Police-sergeant Sheridan and Constable Mahony, of Mullough police station, have been dismissed the service for placing boycotting notices in the pocket of a man named Ryan and subsequently arresting him; and what steps do His Majesty's Government propose to take to safeguard the public against such practices on the part of the police.

MR. WYNDHAM: Sergeant Sheridan and Constable Mahony arrested on the 1st January, at Mullough, county Clare, a man named John Ryan, alleging that they had observed him in the act of posting a threatening notice, and that subsequently they had discovered two other threatening notices in his pockets. He was brought before the resident magistrate at Miltown Malbay on the following morning and remanded from time to time until the 26th January, when he was discharged from custody on the ground that the evidence would not have secured a conviction. No other course could properly have been taken when the evidence brought forward was, in the opinion of the Crown, untrustworthy. These police officers were not discharged for placing the notices in the man's pocket. They were discharged for supporting a charge by evidence of a character so unsatisfactory and conflicting as to render their further retention in the force undesirable in the interests of the public.

TRACTION ENGINE TRAFFIC ON BALLYMENA ROAD.

MR. SAMUEL YOUNG (Cavan, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that in the Local Government Act for Ireland there is no provision to compel the users of traction engines to pay for excessive wear of public roads; and that the use of these engines has made the iron ore road, 650 perches in length, between Glenarm and Ballymena, almost impassable, and has increased the cost to the ratepayers by over £800 per annum for maintenance above the sum required before the mineral traffic began in 1870; and whether he will take steps to relieve the inhabitants of the districts of this tax by assimilating the law in this respect with that of England—namely, the Act of 1878—so that damages may be recovered in Ireland by the local authorities in regard to excessive wear on highways.

MR. WYNDHAM: Under Section 23 of the Highways and Locomotives Act, 1878, as amended by Section 12 of the Locomotives Act, 1898, damages can be recovered by the local authority in England in respect of excessive wear on highways by reason of extraordinary traffic. These enactments do not apply to Ireland, but I will consider the question of assimilating the law in this respect in both countries. I may add that, without further inquiry than I have been able to give to the matter, I cannot say how far the words "extraordinary traffic" apply to traffic conducted otherwise than by traction engines.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL FINANCE.

*MR. COGAN (Wicklow, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that, at the quarterly meeting of the Wicklow County Council on 25th February, the secretary reported that, although he had his calculations ready as far as possible for the estimates for the ensuing financial year, he was unable to complete them owing to the failure of the Valuation Office to forward him the revised valuations of the urban districts, and the total for the county, and informing him they would not be ready before the 1st March, although the Order in Council requires the estimate to be adopted by the county council by the 1st March; that he then communicated with the Local Government Board, and did not receive a reply until the 25th ultimo, stating that he could act on last year's valuation, but that the secretary reported this would be a dangerous experiment owing to the opposition of some urban councils to the demands of the county council, and that in any case the letter from the Local Government Board was received too late to enable him to complete his estimate; and that the county council adjourned without adopting the estimate for the ensuing year; whether the Local Government Board will take the necessary steps to legalise the action of the county council when they adopt their estimate after 1st March, as they have been precluded from doing so within the time limited by the Order in Council owing to the failure of the Valuation Office in furnishing the necessary report in time; and whether the Government will take steps to increase the staff of the Valuation Office, so as to enable it to supply to county councils in Ireland information required by them in sufficient time to enable them to proceed with their business in a regular manner.

MR. WYNDHAM: The facts are substantially as stated in the first paragraph of the question, but the county council received the revised valuation lists for all the rural districts on the 1st of February. There are two urban districts in the county, and the charge in the valuation of these only amounted to a sum of £220, so that there was really no valid reason why the estimate should not have been completed in Wicklow, as in other counties, with all necessary accuracy. The Local Government Board are not in any way in default, but as there has been some misunderstanding it will be prepared to extend the time for making the estimate in county Wicklow, so as to get over the difficulty. No increase is necessary in the staff of the Valuation Office.

LABOURERS' COTTAGES IN CASHEL UNION.

MR. KENDAL O'BRIEN (Tipperary, Mid): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state on what grounds the application for a cottage by a labourer, named Dwyer, of Rosheg, East Division of Kilpatrick, Cashel Union, county of Tipperary, was twice rejected by the Local Government Board, the house of applicant having been certified by the Medical Sanitary Officer as being unfit to shelter cattle; whether he is aware that a petition signed by the Roman Catholic and Protestant clergymen of the parish, and all the ratepayers, was forwarded to the Local Government Board to reconsider the rejection, and its prayer refused; and whether he will now take steps to have this application reconsidered.

MR. WYNDHAM: The proposal was rejected in 1893 because Mary Dywer acknowledged that she was not an agricultural labourer. It was again rejected in 1899 because two cottages, erected in the vicinity for agricultural labourers, were occupied by a shoemaker and a blacksmith, contrary to the provisions of the Labourers Act of 1883. If this state of things still exists it does not appear that a different decision could now be arrived at.

IRISH NATIONAL SCHOOL REQUISITES.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL (Kerry, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the requisites for the new programme in Irish national schools are yet ready; will the Education Office make a free grant of those requisites to all schools; are the requisites manufactured in Ireland; and has any one person or company a monopoly in supplying those requisites.

MR. WYNDHAM: All the requisites needed in connection with the revised programme can be ordered by managers of schools through the Commissioners' stores in Dublin. It is the intention of the Commissioners to make equipment grants of the requisites required for hand and eye training and elementary science instruction to the most necessitous of the national schools. Some of the requisites are manufactured in Ireland, and some are not. The answer to the second paragraph is in the negative.

IRISH EMIGRATION.

MR. JOHN O'DONNELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will state the number of emigrants who left Ireland from the 1st January, 1901, to the 31st December of the same year, and how many of the total left the province of Connaught.

MR. WYNDHAM: The year 1901 is clearly a misprint for 1900. The number of emigrants from Ireland in the past year was 45,288, of whom 14,060 were from the province of Connaught.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): May I ask whether that total is larger than the total for 1899, and the total for the year 1899 larger than that for the year 1898?

MR. WYNDHAM: I believe the hon. Member is correct. The total for the past year is higher than the total for the previous four years, and lower than for several years prior to 1896.

SHILLELAGH UNION—CHARGES AGAINST NURSE JOYCE.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he is aware that charges made by Dr. Bolster, Tinahely, against Nurse Joyce, an employee of the Shillelagh Union, were investigated by the guardians of that union, and dismissed as unfounded; will he explain why the Local Government Board, overriding the decision of the guardians, ordered a new inquiry to be held by their own inspector, Dr. Flinn; also, why the latter, after making arrangements to hold the inquiry in the Tinahely Courthouse, subsequently, without explanation to witnesses and other persons concerned, held the inquiry in Shillelagh; whether Dr. Flinn called for a list of witnesses on behalf of the accuser and accused, and also summoned Dr. Bolster's witnesses; and, if so, why did he not summon Nurse Joyce's witnesses; and whether he is aware that notwithstanding Dr. Flinn's statement to some of the guardians that there was nothing in Dr. Bolster's charges, he (Dr. Flinn) has given judgment against Nurse Joyce; and whether in view of Dr. Flinn's procedure towards Mrs. Joyce, he will order Dr. Flinn's decision to be reconsidered, and direct a new inquiry to be held.

MR. WYNDHAM: The charges preferred by Dr. Bolster against Nurse Joyce were investigated and dismissed by the guardians. In view of the gravity of the charges the Local Government Board ordered a sworn inquiry to be held by its inspector, Dr. Flinn. The inquiry was held at Shillelagh, the usual and most convenient place. All the witnesses on both sides whose evidence was likely to be material were summoned, and attended. Dr. Flinn did not state that there was nothing in the charges against the nurse. The decision was arrived at by the Board, not by Dr. Flinn, whose duty was simply to obtain evidence. It does not appear that any further inquiry is called for.

CHARGES AGAINST DR. BOLSTER.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, having regard to the fact that the Shillelagh Guardians have investigated charges against Dr. Bolster of neglect and indifference towards patients holding union tickets for his attendance on them, and have declared the charges sufficiently established to demand inquiry, will he see that the inquiry into Dr. Bolster's conduct is held as soon as convenient.

MR. WYNDHAM: The Local Government Board has called upon Dr. Bolster for his observations on the charges preferred against him; upon receipt of his reply the question of holding a sworn inquiry will be considered.

GORTIN MAGISTERIAL BENCH.

*MR. HEMPHILL (Tyrone, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the constitution of the petty sessions bench at Gortin, in North Tyrone, which consists almost exclusively of Protestant magistrates, though the majority of the population of the district are Roman Catholics; and is he aware of the dissatisfaction existing in consequence among the Roman Catholic population; and, if so, would he be pleased to call the attention of the Lord Chancellor of Ireland, in whom lies the sole power of appointing to the Irish magistracy, to this state of affairs, with a view to redressing the grievance.

MR. WYNDHAM: My attention has not been directed to the religious composition of the Justices in attendance at Gortin Petty Sessions; but I have no reason to doubt the accuracy of the statements. In answer to the second paragraph, the right hon. Gentleman must be aware that recommendations for appointments to the Commission of the Peace in this, as in other districts, should be made to the Lieutenant of the County, who will submit them, if suitable, for the consideration of the Lord Chancellor. It is not within my province to intervene in the matter of these appointments as suggested, but I will forward to the Lord Chancellor, for his information, a copy of the question and of my answer to it.

*MR. HEMPHILL: May I ask, is the right hon. Gentleman aware that Lord Chancellors have conferred the commission of the peace quite irrespective of any recommendations from the Lieutenant of the County, and that it was done in many cases by the late Lord Chancellor Walker?

MR. WYNDHAM: I am not aware of that. It is not the practice which is being followed.

HORSE BREEDING IN COUNTY CORK.

Mr. FLYNN (Cork, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in view of the refusal of the Congested Districts Board to an application from the Ballydehob district (county Cork) for one of the board's stallions suitable to the district, he will now take steps for the favourable reconsideration of this request.

Mr. WYNDHAM: The allocation of the Board's stallions has been made after full and careful consideration of the circumstances of each district, and the Board regrets that it is unable to send a stallion to Ballydehob this season.

CLOGHERHEAD POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS.

Mr. NOLAN (Louth, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he is aware that letters for Clogherhead, county Louth, are despatched from the Drogheda Post Office a short time before the arrival of the limited mail; that, consequently, all letters from England, Scotland, and abroad for Clogerhead lie in Drogheda or Termonfeckin for twenty-three hours before reaching their destination, which causes inconvenience to the families of Clogherhead fishermen, many of whom are absent from home at the Scotch fisheries during the season and send home part of their earnings for their families, and deprives the farmers there of the means of prompt information as to the sales of their cattle and sheep consigned to Liverpool and Salford; and whether this delay could be obviated by causing the postal messenger from Termonfeckin, who delivers letters within a half mile of Clogherhead, to go direct and deposit letters for that office, and make the few house to house deliveries required on his way back to Termonfeckin.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The Postmaster General will consider whether a second post can be provided in the way suggested by the hon. Member, who shall be informed of the result.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (IRELAND) RETURNS.

Mr. ARCHDALE (Fermanagh, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Return, Local Government Act (Ireland) Electoral Areas, moved for on 2nd August last, and ordered to be printed on 15th February, will be soon ready for distribution.

Mr. WYNDHAM: The Return, which is a very voluminous one, will, I hope, be ready for distribution in the course of the next fortnight.

MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL—CREDIT BALANCES.

*Mr. KENNEDY (Westmeath, N.): I beg to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he is aware that an assessment of income tax has been made on interest received by the Meath County Council on credit balances in the hands of its county treasurer, pursuant to Section 2 of the County Treasurers Act, 1867; and that this income is applied by the county council to the relief of the destitute poor in lieu of poor rates; and whether he will direct the Commissioners of Income Tax to cancel this assessment.

Sir M. HICKS BEACH: Inquiry is being made into the circumstances of this case. Assuming, however, that the facts are as stated, the proper course for the Meath County Council to adopt, if they were dissatisfied with the assessment, was to appeal against it to the Commissioners for Special Purposes, from whose decision a further appeal lies to the county court judge. If the county council have failed to give notice of appeal within the time prescribed by law, it will not now be possible to alter the assessment for the current year. But it is not in my power to give the directions suggested in this question.

*Mr. KENNEDY: The question is, are they liable to pay income tax on this interest which they receive on their credit balances, and which is applied to the relief of the poor? Is money applied to the relief of the poor liable to income tax?

Sir M. HICKS BEACH: I should be rather surprised if it is so, but it is a legal question, and it is impossible for me to reply to it.

*Mr. KENNEDY: I can assure the right hon. Gentleman, as chairman of the county council, that it is so.

CLONES POST OFFICE—STAFF ACCOMMODATION.

Mr. DALY (Monaghan, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, if his attention has been directed to the office accommodation at Clones, where, with a mixed staff, there is an entire absence of sanitary arrangements and no provision for heating; and will he undertake to give the matter consideration, with a view to improved arrangements for the public and the staff.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The post office at Clones is located at present, as it has been for many years past, in a shop, half of which is used for the purposes of a private business. The accommodation is admittedly inadequate, but it is the best that could be obtained. A site for a new Crown post office is in course of acquisition, and plans are being prepared for a new building, which it is hoped will be commenced during the present year.

MEDICAL ATTENDANCE FOR THE CLONES MEDICAL STAFF.

Mr. DALY: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, if he is aware that a sorting clerk and telegraphist at Clones, who is only in receipt of 18s. per week, was recently refused payment of medical expenses incurred by him during illness, on the ground that the Department did not at that office provide gratuitous medical attention; whether inquiry will be made with a view to the sum claimed being paid; and if he will state what are the conditions requisite to claim free medical attention.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: It is the case that a sorting clerk and telegraphist at Clones who was absent on sick leave was informed that his medical expenses could not be paid by the Department. It is only at offices to which a medical officer is attached that Post Office servants, whose pay does not exceed £150 a year, are entitled to free medical attendance; and Clones is not one of these offices.

IRISH LANGUAGE IN THE POST OFFICE.

Mr. THOMAS O'DONNELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether, as Irish is taught in national and intermediate schools in Ireland, spoken and written by a portion of the population, the Post Office authorities in Ireland will take steps, by the appointment of competent officials, for the delivery of letters addressed in Irish.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: No inconvenience has been found to arise from ignorance of the Irish language on the part of officers of the Post Office employed in Ireland, and it is not thought necessary to take any special steps to ensure that such knowledge shall be possessed by them.

LONDON BILLS IN PARLIAMENT—OPPOSITION BY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCILS.

Mr. BOULNOIS (Marylebone, E.): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he proposes to take action with reference to the powers of Metropolitan borough councils to oppose Bills in Parliament, having regard to the fact that Section 6, subsection 6, of the London Government Act, 1899, is practically inoperative in the Metropolis in consequence of the provisions of the Borough Funds Act, 1872, having to be observed.

*The PRESIDENT of the LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. Walter Long, Bristol, S.): The sub-section referred to in the question places the councils of metropolitan boroughs in the same position with regard to opposing Bills in Parliament as the councils of boroughs outside London. Some amendment of the Borough Funds Act generally is, I think, desirable. I could not undertake to propose legislation for this purpose at the present time; but my hon. friend the Member for South Islington has now before the House a Bill on the subject, and I should hope that he may be able to make progress with it.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE—ARMY AND NAVY VOTES.

General LAURIE (Pembroke and Haverfordwest): I beg to ask the First

Lord of the Treasury, in view of the rule that general questions connected with the Army and Navy can only be discussed on Vote A or Vote 1, and that there is a necessity that these Votes must be taken before 31st March, and in view that His Majesty, in his Speech at the opening of the session, announced that measures would be submitted to the judgment of Parliament for increasing the efficiency of the military forces of the country, whether any arrangement can be made by which the law may be complied with, and the number of men and provision for pay may be voted before the commencement of the financial year, and an opportunity afforded to consider in fuller detail the proposals of the Government.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): It is true, of course, that these Votes must be got before 31st March. I hope there will be an opportunity before that date of having a good discussion upon the large issues involved. It would be also possible, of course, on later Votes to deal with some of the important questions to be raised this afternoon by my right hon. friend. If those opportunities prove really insufficient we shall have to consider what course to pursue.

VOTE ON ACCOUNT.

MR. CALDWELL (Lanarkshire, Mid): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he can say when he proposes to take the Report stage of the Vote on Account, and whether he will put it down as the first Order of the Day on which it is taken; and whether he will allow ample time for its discussion.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR replied that he was not in a position as yet to say when the Report stage would be taken.

DIVISION REGULATIONS.

MR. PLUMMER (Newcastle-on-Tyne): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he will undertake to consider the desirability of so amending the Rules and Orders or custom of the House as to provide that the House need not necessarily be cleared for a division, and that the votes of Members who remain in their places shall not be accounted in the division, which will proceed to be taken notwithstanding their absence from the lobbies.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The present method of working divisions seems to me in the main convenient. It is founded upon practice and not upon Standing Order, and I presume that under those circumstances it could be changed without an alteration of our Standing Orders.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee): I beg to ask you, Mr. Speaker, whether a resolution of the House would be necessary to bring about an alteration of the practice in question.

*MR. SPEAKER: I should not like to say, as I have had no notice of this question, and, as far as I know, there is no resolution which would be considered binding on the House on the subject. But I have not made any research. I understand that, as the First Lord of the Treasury says, it is a matter of practice, and the practice as to the mode of taking divisions has been altered in my own time in some small details.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.): Does not the question of clearing the House depend upon the Standing Order?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not think so, but I should not like to answer the question dogmatically without notice.

MR. CALDWELL (Lanarkshire, Mid): If there is no Standing Order requiring that Members should proceed to a division, on what ground is it that they are suspended for not going to a division?

*MR. SPEAKER: Order! The hon. Member is entering into an argument.

POINT OF PRACTICE—CAPTAIN DONELAN'S SUSPENSION (5TH MARCH)—EFFECT OF SUSPENSION ON MEMBERS' PRIORITY FOR MOTIONS AND BILLS.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): In connection, Sir, with the revision of the Order Paper, the hon. Gentleman the Member for South-East Cork had first place at the ballot for a notice of motion on your leaving the chair and going into Committee of Supply on the Army Estimates. That notice of motion is removed from the Paper. I want to know whether there is anything in the Standing Order directing that the notice standing in the name of the hon. Member for South-East Cork, who has been suspended for a week, should be removed from the Paper.

*MR. SPEAKER: What has been done in this case was done in pursuance of the order that the hon. Member would be suspended from the service of the House for one week.

MR. DILLON: Does that order mean that all notices of motion in his name must, as a consequence of his suspension, be removed from the Paper?

*MR. SPEAKER: No. As each day comes on and the Notice Paper is made out, if that is one of the days during which he is suspended any notice in his name is erased.

MR. DILLON: This is a matter of the greatest importance. Do I understand you to say, Sir, that, in the event of the business to which his notice applied being postponed to a date subsequent to the expiration of his suspension, his right of priority will revive?

*MR. SPEAKER: No; I did not give you to understand that that would be the rule if his name was erased, but I will see if any case has arisen before similar to this. My impression at the moment is that he loses his right of priority if another Member gets in front of him on the Order Paper.

MR. DILLON: Hon. Members must see that this is a matter of great importance. To suit your convenience, Sir, I was thinking of putting a question on Monday next in reference to this point, asking you in the meantime to consider how the hon. Member's position stands as regards this notice. It affects not only questions of priority for a notice of motion, but also Bills.

*MR. SPEAKER: I must deprecate the practice of putting questions of this kind to the Speaker. It is the Speaker's duty merely to answer questions of order and procedure as they arise.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: May I ask one additional question? I quite understand your ruling, Sir, that the hon. Member will lose his right of procedure if another Member below him on the Paper has brought on his motion. But in this case the question of your leaving the chair may be adjourned to-night before any Amendment is moved by any other Member, and I want to know, if at a date subsequent to the hon. Member's suspension for a week the question is again put on the Paper, whether his right would not then revive?

*MR. SPEAKER: I would not like to give an unconsidered answer to the question. It may depend on precedents. If the hon. Member comes to the chair during the evening, I will endeavour to give him what information I can. My present opinion is, as I stated before, that his right does not revive.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

MR. HALSEY reported from the Committee of Selection, That they had nominated the following Members to serve on the Standing Committee for the consideration of all Bills relating to Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping, and Manufacture:—Mr. Attorney General, Mr. Baird, Mr. Baldwin, Mr. Gerald Balfour, Mr. Beckett, Mr Boland, Mr. Broadhurst, Mr. John Burns, Mr. Burt, Sir Charles Cayzer, Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Channing, Mr. Cohen, Mr. Jesse Collings, Sir John Colomb, Mr. Cremer, Mr. Crombie, Sir Charles Dalrymple, Mr. Daly, Sir Frederick Dixon-Hartland, Mr. Doughty, Mr. J. P. Farrell, Sir Robert Penrose-FitzGerald, Sir Fortescue Flannery, Sir Henry Fowler, Mr. Galloway, Mr. Harrington, Sir Alfred Hickman, Mr. Brodie Hoare, Sir William Hornby, Sir William Houldsworth, Major Jameson, Mr. Jeffreys, Sir James Joicey, Mr. Kemp, Mr. Lambert, Sir Elliott Lees, Mr. Lloyd-George, Colonel Long, Mr. Walter Long, Dr. MacDonnell, Mr. Macartney, Mr. Mather, Mr. Charles Morley, Mr. Oldroyd, Mr. Parkes, Mr. Pike Pease, Colonel Pilkington, Sir James Rankin, Mr. Renshaw, Sir Albert Rollit, Mr. Round, Mr. T. W. Russell, Mr. Stuart Samuel, Mr. Seton-Karr, Mr. Thomas Shaw, Sir Barrington Simeon, Mr. Samuel Smith, Mr. Strachey, Mr. Tennant, Mr. Tomlinson, Mr. Tully, Mr.

George Whiteley, Sir Frederick Wills, Mr. John Wilson (Durham), Mr. John Wilson (Falkirk), Mr. Wolff, and Mr. Samuel Young.

Mr. HALSEY further reported from the Committee of Selection, That they had nominated the following Members to serve on the Standing Committee for the consideration of all Bills relating to Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure which may, by Order of the House, be committed to such Standing Committee:—The Lord Advocate, Mr. Asquith, Mr. Atherley-Jones, Mr. Atkinson, Mr. Barlow, Mr. Bartley, Mr. Beach, Mr. Butcher, Mr. Carew, Lord Hugh Cecil, Mr. Clancy, Mr. Coghill, Mr. Cripps, Sir Savile Crossley, Mr. Bromley-Davenport, Sir Charles Dilke, Mr. Dillon, Mr. Tatton Egerton, Mr. Arthur Elliot, Mr. Samuel Evans, Mr. Faber, Sir George Fardell, Mr. Flynn, Mr. Vicary Gibbs, Sir Frederick Godson, Mr. Goulding, Mr. Graham, Mr. H. D. Greene, Mr. Haldane, Mr. Harwood, Mr. T. M. Healy, Mr. James Heath, Mr. Helder, Mr. Hemphill, Mr. Henry Hobhouse, Mr. Jacoby, Mr. Brynmor Jones, Mr. Jordan, Mr. Lees Knowles, Mr. W. F. Lawrence, Sir Joseph Leese, Mr. Loder, Mr. A. K. Loyd, Mr. Lyttelton, Dr. Macnamara, Mr. MacNeill, Sir Henry Meysey-Thompson, Colonel Milward, Mr. Arthur Morton, Mr. Lloyd Morgan, Captain Norton, Sir Francis Powell, Colonel Pryce-Jones, Sir Robert Reid, Mr. Rentoul, Mr. Secretary Ritchie, Mr. Bryn Roberts, Mr. Parker Smith, Mr. Soames, Mr. Solicitor General. Mr. Ernest Spencer, Mr. Stevenson, Sir Benjamin Stone, Mr. Ure, Sir Howard Vincent, Mr. Robert Wallace, Mr. Warr, and Sir James Woodhouse.

Reports to lie upon the Table.

NEW BILL.

BURIAL PLACES (EXEMPTION FROM RATES) (SCOTLAND).

Bill to amend the Rating Exemptions (Scotland) Act, 1874, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Shaw-Stewart, Sir John Stirling-Maxwell, Mr. Colville, Sir Lewis M'Iver, and Mr. Eugene Wason.

BURIAL PLACES (EXEMPTION FROM RATES) (SCOTLAND) BILL.

"To amend the Rating Exemptions (Scotland) Act, 1874," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Thursday next, and to be printed. [Bill 92.]

SUPPLY (ARMY ESTIMATES).

Order for Committee read.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): I rise to make a motion which has never before been made by a Minister in this House, and I trust will never require to be made again—namely, that you, Mr. Speaker, do now leave the chair in order to consider Army Estimates amounting to close upon eighty-eight millions of money. It is just five years since I rose from this bench and in some degree apologised to the House for introducing Estimates to the extent of £18,000,000 in a time of profound peace. The progress of events has singularly dwarfed the Estimates which were presented in 1896. In 1898 it was my duty to ask for £19,250,000, with a further liability, which appeared on the Estimates of 1899, that brought them up to £20,500,000. In 1900 my right hon. friend the present Chief Secretary for Ireland moved for Estimates which, at the then rate and with the addition as to men, raised the £20,500,000 to £25,500,000. I have now to submit to the House Estimates for the year, apart from the war in South Africa, but including provision for reserves of stores which will not accrue for the next three or four years, amounting for the normal Estimates alone to £29,685,000. I propose to-night to devote myself mainly to a consideration of the normal Estimates. As regards these larger figures the House of Commons has almost become inured to them. They would have been regarded some years ago with perturbation; they are now accepted almost, I think, with relief, because they tend to show that we are taking steps which must lead to nearing the termination of the war. And even in respect of these large figures the House of Commons has been, in my judgment, corrupted and debauched by the graceful oratory of my right hon. friend the Chief Secretary, for he succeeded in so veiling his proposals last year that, although he was making such great demands, he managed to preserve an appearance of moderation, and even of abstemiousness, which caused many Members as they left the House, when they heard him move for £50,000,000, to express their regret that he had not gone as far as £75,000,000. To-night I believe I shall best be consulting the interests of the House by dropping, except for a very few words, allusion to the War Estimates. We have had long discussions upon them, and I do not propose either to vindicate the policy of the war or to prophesy as to its duration. All I would say is that what we have taken as the cost of the war is what we regard as being the full sum that we are likely to have to ask from the House of Commons. In taking so large a figure it is an earnest of our intention to pursue the war at all costs to a conclusion. We are sending out the reinforcements which we believe are necessary to that end. We have stinted the generals on the spot in nothing. On the other hand, though our demands are so large, and though our intention is absolutely determined as to the pursuance of the war, there are no Members of the House who will be as glad as the Members on this bench when it is possible to relieve the country of the cost of the war, and of all the Members on this bench there is none who will more gladly than the Minister who is now addressing the House welcome its termination.

If I may take it that the House agrees with me that we may devote ourselves more to the large and, I admit, increasing cost of our normal military establishment, I propose to leave altogether aside the stale controversies with regard to the war—as to its conduct, as to who began it—and to go to the root of the matter with regard to the future organisation of our Army. I want to ask the House to consider what our Army is organised for. Is it in strength and character capable of fulfilling its proper functions? Are we to pull down the existing system and build it up anew, or can we found on the existing system what is necessary to secure our home defence and our foreign obligations? We can do that to-night calmly and without any degree of panic. But I would like to remind the House that this is not the first time that this House has been invited to consider the system of its Army. During the last century there were three occasions on which the whole Army system of the country was brought under consideration. The first was after the Great War, in which it took us years to provide the Duke of Wellington in the Peninsula with the force which was necessary even to hold his own in a defensive position against the great force which was arrayed against him; and ultimately, I think, the extreme amount of the efforts of many years and of immense expenditure was that we were able to find him 65,000 men. But after that experience, when a partial disarmament began in 1814, we had profited by our experience so badly that in 1815, although there were something like 210,000 troops voted for that year, with the most supreme effort we were not able to provide the Duke of Wellington with more than 40,000 men in Flanders. As every one knows, this country, like other countries, went to sleep for forty years afterwards in military matters, and our organisation became so rusty in the later years of the Duke of Wellington that in the Crimea we were found deficient in everything that was needed to make an army except the bravery of our troops. We had not enough men; we had not enough horses; we had no commissariat and supplies; our officers were untrained, and our generals were inexperienced. Even after that experience, we took so little heed of our position that there was no time during the last century in which the British Army was weaker than between 1860 and 1870. It was not only the army in this country that was insufficient, but the army which, after the Indian Mutiny, and after the great awakening in India, should have been maintained in that country was constantly short by hundreds and thousands of men, and, as is well known, with absolutely no reserve at home to draw upon.

The third and last awakening came in 1870, the period of the Franco-German war. We then had a real reorganisation of the Army. We had then great changes, the effects of which, I venture to say, have never been appreciated until the war which is now going on. But it is a most remarkable fact that so unpopular is Army reform, so wedded are the people of this country to past associations and prejudices which may be considered antiquated, that, whether it was some fault in the presentation of the subject, whether it was the personality of the man, or whether it was the general unpopularity of touching things to which men had long been accustomed, I have never in my experience heard a single cheer in this House when the name of the man who abolished purchase and who first started short service in the British Army has been mentioned. The unpopularity of Mr. Cardwell in respect of these matters was great at the time.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): Not in this House.

*MR. BRODRICK: The right hon. Gentleman has the advantage of me. He was in the House at the time. I am glad to hear his statement. I am thinking more of the country than of the House. I cannot help feeling that we owe something to Lord Cardwell's memory in view of the use to which we have put his great reforms in the course of the last few months. Surely the proudest inheritance of a statesman is not in the immediate cheers with which his fellow-countrymen may greet a popular but perhaps not altogether successful movement, but in the fact that after thirty years that system, with but small modifications, gave us 80,000 reservists, of whom 96 or 97 per cent. were found efficient, which has enabled us to keep, apart from Volunteers and Colonials, an army of 150,000 Regulars in the field for fifteen months, and which gave us those manœuvres which were too long dropped by successive Governments, and which are in the opinion of all our military leaders absolutely necessary in order to get an acquaintance with the practice of war. Now we have another great awakening, or rather a discovery, that there are many flaws and imperfections even in those portions of our Army system which were deemed to be best. I should like to state that, though I am here to state the views of the Government as to the changes that are necessary, I should like that it should be felt that the greatest change which has taken place with regard to our war policy is not in the Government but in the House of Commons and the people. I have over and over again endeavoured to persuade the House of Commons that it was necessary for us to organise our forces on the principle of being able to send two army corps abroad. I have had the scantiest attendance and backing of the House for these proposals. For home defence everybody was willing to act; but home defence in the minds of a great many Members represents not an organised army, not even with regard to our auxiliary forces, no compulsion with regard to drill, but simply the acceptance from every man of that amount of service which he desires to give—various proposals that are very pleasant and which can be reeled off easily—but which really mean the organisation of your Army on the system of the Boxers, an idea of a military system that every man should shoulder a rifle and stand in front of his own door. Not only have there been failings in regard to organisation, but there have been many doubts as regards the numbers. When, in 1898, I asked for 25,000 additional men I remember a question from that Bench and a great deal being said as to whether these numbers were necessary.

What has been our experience in regard to organisation and numbers has also been our experience in regard to manœuvres. I have extracted from the House, with the greatest reluctance, compulsory powers in regard to manœuvres. They may be an imperfect preparation for war, but, in my opinion, they are better than no preparation at all. All our proposals in regard to manœuvres have been cut down largely by the House. With regard to ranges, we had need to fight a battle upstairs before Committee before we obtained power to close the smallest footpath, just as we have now, if we want to take property by compulsion, to run the gauntlet of judges and others, under whose auspices we pay, I say without hesitation and without fear of contradiction, on the average 50 per cent. more than the land is worth. I could give instances to prove it; and, as I see that hon. Members for Ireland take some interest in this question, I may say that in Ireland it is still worse, for there you have to deal not only with the landlord, but with the tenant. The result of all that is that up till now there have been the greatest possible difficulties placed in the way of the Government—not theoretically, because I admit this House has never refused demands for men or for money—but in all the accessories, in all that goes in the way of spending the money well and making the men efficient, this House has been reluctant to trespass on private rights or the feelings of individuals. I often hear hon. Members boast that we are by nature a fighting race. I can only say that we may be a fighting race, but it is only by accident that we are a military nation. Now we have to consider how we can turn that accident into a permanent opportunity.

I should like to detain the House for a moment on the lessons which this war has taught us. In the first place, I think the House will agree with me that we can no longer lay to our souls the flattering unction that we have not got to be prepared to send two army corps abroad. I think the events of the last fifteen months have proved, first of all, that we must be prepared to send more than two army corps abroad; secondly, that these army corps must be better organised; and, thirdly, that, when you have parted with the force which it is necessary to send out of the kingdom, you must have a sufficient organisation at home for our own protection. In addition to that, it has been made obvious that our artillery is insufficient, and that our field artillery requires to be supplemented by heavier field artillery. Sir, it is also perfectly clear that the exigencies of modern warfare, the greatly extended positions which are held, and the necessity of rapid movement make it necessary that we should be provided with a much larger body of mounted troops. There is, as I have already admitted, a reform also needed in our Army Medical Service, and in our transport service. But there is another question, not so much of money and of men; we want a reform of our drill and training. We want less barrack square drill. We want more scouting, we want more independence, more individuality amongst the men. All these things will give us plenty of food for thought, and will give Lord Roberts a wide arena in which to exercise his great talents. But, having said so much as to the defects which have been brought to light by the war, let us, before passing, congratulate ourselves that, in the war, we have still found the spirit of our troops as excellent as it has ever been. If our officers have not been trained to the highest professional pitch, no man in the world, whether he be our friend or our foe, can deny that they have shown the greatest bravery and gallantry on all occasions. In addition to that, we may also congratulate ourselves that both our gun and rifle practice has been good; and I think we may say this for our system: that, whether it was prepared or not prepared for all emergencies, it has shown marvellous adaptability in hastily providing a home defence which gave us more men in barracks in the course of last year than we had at any time of profound peace. I think that those who administer the Service may well be grateful to the country at large for having borne the very unexpected reverses with a patience and calmness and self-possession worthy of the greatest praise.

In approaching the subject of reform, I would ask the House to allow me to mention two points on which we differ from any other nation in regard to the problems we have to face. In the first place, we have got to keep an enormous force abroad, quite apart from war, in a time of peace. We have got to provide, to equip, 115,000 men in India and the Colonies, mostly in tropical stations, and we have to attempt to do that, which no other Power attempts, relying entirely upon voluntary enlistment. If we arrive finally at a decision that we can build up on the present system, it will not be for want of consideration of what other systems can do. The right hon. Baronet the Member for the Forest of Dean has impressed on the attention of the House more than once the desirability of having a separate Indian army.

*Sir CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): That is putting it too strongly. A separate system of enlistment rather than a separate Indian army.

*MR. BRODRICK: I have always thought that the right hon. Gentleman rather favoured that view, and have felt that the fact of my never having been able to find any way to accept it was the key of a good deal of his want of confidence in my fitness for the post I now occupy. At all events, I might explain to the House why we cannot accept the idea of a separate Indian army. In the first place, we have 75,000 men in India. If you are to have a separate Indian army, you must train the recruits before they leave this country. You must also have them at a certain age, because we never send men to India between eighteen and twenty years of age. The recruits require to train two years at home in order to fit them to go to India. That means you must keep two years drafts; and experience shows that if you want to keep a regiment of 1,000 men in India you must keep as drafts between 400 and 500 men in England who belong to no regiment, who are enlisted solely for the Indian Army, who are only partially trained before they leave, and who form a force accountable to nobody, and form no part of a unit at home. If, instead of these 400 or 500, you raise them to 800, and form them into a battalion at home, you will have the nucleus of battalions which with Reservists added makes up regiments. Reservists have given satisfaction to every general under whom they have served in South Africa. If you were to attempt a separate Indian army, you would not only have a much greater cost on your active list, but you would have men serving nine or ten years in India, and you would incur a greater expense for pensions. You would have a no more effective army in India and a less effective one at home. We therefore reject the idea of a separate Indian army. The next question is, Is our Army in future for home defence to be a voluntary Army, or is it to be recruited by compulsion? I am perfectly aware of the delicate ground on which I am treading in respect to the question of voluntary or compulsory service. I know very well how easy it is in this House to win cheap cheers by a proud declaration about adhesion to the voluntary system. I think the voluntary system for home defence is not a thing to be proud of, unless you get an efficient defence. I do not doubt that man for man a voluntary army is better than a conscription army, but mass for mass a trained army of conscripts is better than an incompletely trained army of volunteers, and especially if it happens to outnumber them. Therefore my adhesion to the voluntary system is strictly limited by our ability to obtain under it a force with which our military authorities can satisfy the Government that they have sufficient force to resist invasion and can maintain it to their satisfaction. At the same time the Government fully recognise that, while the country is willing to pay heavily to escape invasion, it is incumbent on the Government to exhaust every means before coming forward with any such proposals, and especially under the circumstances of the present time.

We have never had such recruiting as we had last year under the influence of the warlike spirit that pervaded the country and the conviction that the war was just and necessary. That war spirit has brought us the largest number of recruits to the Army in any year in any period of our history. The recruits for the Army were 46,000, and for the Militia, deducting those who went into the Army, 30,000. Ten thousand Yeomanry enlisted last year on the cavalry rate of pay, and 57,000 additional Volunteers joined during the year, making a total of 140,000 men who came forward voluntarily for service during 1900. Be it remembered that a large majority of these were recruited for service in the war, to which those who joined the Army were liable. Thirty-five Militia battalions offered for foreign service, and were at disposal for South Africa; 10,000 Yeomanry went and 10,000 Volunteers, and we can have another 10,000 when we want them. I think, then, that any proposal that did not proceed on voluntary lines would be, as it were, applying spurs to a willing horse; although I fully realise what the difficulty may still be in keeping up the required force with the advantage which is possessed by nearly every other nation in the world.

I think the first thing to remember is that our Army must be a national Army, and any step in a direction which is contrary to our previous policy should not be taken until it receives the support, at all events, of the vast majority of the country. To take a step of that kind, which a future Government might feel it to be their duty to go back upon, would be, I think, disastrous to the Army and the country. On the other hand, perhaps I may be allowed to address one word of warning to the House with regard to that. I do not believe that this great spirit of recruiting will continue with the same intensity after the war is over. I am not at all certain that the ease with which money is obtained now will be borne out by the pleasure with which the taxation necessary for it will be paid. I never come down to the House of Commons without being subjected in the lobby to the demand that we should increase the pay, or that we should add to the expenditure in some direction in regard to the war or at home. I hardly ever get a letter from a Member that does not invite consideration of some great and, to his mind, undoubted hardship suffered by somebody or some class of individuals. There is no section of the various component parts of our national defence which has not been the subject of representation to me in some form or another in the last few weeks with a view to a great addition of expenditure. But I know also that if at this moment I am attacked for parsimony, I think the day is not far distant when I shall be attacked for extravagance; and I can well realise that among those who are loudest in calling for expenditure there may be many who would feel the pinch very heavily in years to come, and I even think, as I pass the lamp-post in Palace Yard, there will be plenty of people who would be glad to hold on to one end of a rope if they could only be persuaded that I myself or the Chancellor of the Exchequer was attached to the other end.

Our proposal, therefore, is to lay down what is necessary for the country to obtain. We know that we can equip any force that is necessary, and let us see if we cannot train them. If we lack recruits, if the war fever is followed by a peace collapse, I think we shall be very pusillanimous if we do not make further proposals to the House. Remember that what we ask the House to do is to ensure us a system of defence for which not only our own forefathers made great sacrifices but for which our neighbours, whether they live under a democratic or despotic government, consider that at this moment no sacrifice is too great. I am, therefore, not going to accommodate the organisation I propose to our existing resources. I am going to consider how we can find proper resources for the organisation that is necessary. If I may trouble the House for a few minutes longer on this subject, I shall endeavour to lay down what it is for which we ought to prepare. In the first place, when we talk of home defence, let us not confuse our minds by considering the position and action of the Navy. The Navy is obviously our first line of defence, and if all naval matters were matters of certainty, we might dispense with an army for home defence altogether. I quite agree that invasion may be an off-chance, but you cannot run an Empire of this size on off-chances. We are bound, with Army and Navy acting together, to provide a proper system of home defence. I must also lay this down—we must have proper provision for foreign war. If five years ago I had tried to persuade anybody in this House that we should be sending three army corps to South Africa I should have been the object of ridicule to those who belittle our power of sending troops abroad, and I think I should have been the object of contempt to those who belittle the power of our opponents, especially in South Africa. Well, we have not only had to send three army corps but six army corps to South Africa—I mean the equivalent of six army corps. I trust we shall never have to send that number of troops abroad again; but we must remember that Africa is not the only continent on which we have great commitments. On two other continents we have commitments, and we must realise that we have interests there we are bound to defend. It may be contended—I do not deny it—that a wise foreign policy may go far to keep us out of enterprises and entanglements. [Opposition cheers.] Yes, but we have to recollect that we have great possessions, and great wealth, and that those possessions and this wealth, however peaceful our own inclinations may be, must at times be objects of enterprise to our neighbours. Let us lay to heart what was said to Crœsus in old days, "Remember that if any man come who hath better iron than you he will be master of all your gold." Do not let us build up our military policy on such a quicksand as the goodwill and forbearance of foreign Powers. I will not entertain the question of a European war, but I think no man in the House will be so bold as to say that under all circumstances we shall be able to keep ourselves free from European entanglements. The Government of 1880, which came in with probably the greatest peace policy of any Government, found themselves not merely at war in Egypt, but in 1885 on the verge of war with Russia. We cannot shut out the possibility of having to send a large force to defend our own possessions, nor can we suppose that if ever we should become unhappily entangled in a European war we can limit our enterprise solely to the defence of our possessions, and to the action of our fleet. It stands to reason if we have allies that none of them would be prepared to turn out every man they could muster and allow ours to rest at home. Therefore my proposition is that besides home defence we ought to be ready at any moment to send abroad three army corps with the proper cavalry divisions, in fact a force of one hundred and twenty thousand men; and the proposal which I submit to the House to-night contemplates that we should hold such a force in readiness with a proper admixture of reservists, and still provide ourselves with the power to defend ourselves at home when that force is gone.

The proposals I have to make to the House are as follows: I propose to reorganise the Army on a new system, of which the bedrock will be that the whole country will be divided into six army corps by districts, that each district in time of peace will have the same relative proportions to the various arms that are necessary to make up the corps, and that they will be under the commanders who will lead them in time of war. This will be a great change on our existing somewhat haphazard system. It will be a great measure of organisation. But there will also be a great measure of decentralisation. My object is to centralise responsibility, but to decentralise administration. The army corps will no longer be a paper force. The British army corps of the past, as has been often pointed out, is got together in a moment of emergency. Commanders have been summoned and hastily appointed. Their staffs have often never seen their commanders. The brigade has been made up by taking a regiment from Malta, another from Edinburgh, a third from Dublin, and a fourth from Shorncliffe. These four have been dumped down together in South Africa or elsewhere, the colonels not knowing each other, and perhaps none of them knowing their brigadier. That is an organisation which cannot be considered an organisation at all. If you want to make troops work together, they must have some knowledge of each other and of their commanding officers. We propose that in these army corps districts troops shall be within reach of each other, that the different arms shall be complete, that the officers, as far as peace duties justify it, shall be appointed, and that we shall have a full staff as far as peace duties justify it. The stores will be massed with each army corps in the army corps district; the troops will not be immediately adjoining, but will meet for manœuvres. The transport will be arranged and will be under the commander of the army corps; each army corps will be complete in artillery and mounted troops. We hope by these means to obtain not merely greater efficiency, but some *esprit de corps* in these army corps.

But the two cardinal points to which we look for the greatest advantage are the appointment for peace command only of those officers who are certified by the military authorities to be fit to command in war. [Cheers.] I am glad to hear that expression of opinion by the House, because of all the proposals I have to submit there is not one which will call for so much support of Ministers by the House. All the forces of good nature, all the forces of prejudice, all the pressure which can be exerted will be exerted to induce us very often, I fear, by question or by motion in this House, to reappoint to positions for which they are not fitted, officers against whom no actual failure can be proved. I will not come down to this House and ask for these large Estimates in order to raise and equip troops who can be made efficient and then be made a party, for the sake of peace and quietness, to putting them under the command of inefficient officers. I feel most strongly on this subject, and the Commander-in-Chief, Lord Roberts, has decided that in future appointments will be made, not for five years but for three years, with power of extension, so that it may be possible for him at the end of that time to review the action of these officers and, if necessary, to replace them by others. That is the more necessary, because the second great advantage which we expect from this system is that we intend to delegate to the commanders of the army corps a very large amount of the authority which is now exercised in Pall Mall. I believe that the desirability of doing that, if it can be carried out, as I believe it can, is so patent to everybody that I need not labour it. But I do say this, with all the confidence of some experience, that these two steps, the appointing of men in peace, even if they are younger and more active, and even if it ends in our having to exclude men whom we should like to employ on other grounds —I believe that this is the only way by which we can secure the proper leading of our troops in war, and I believe that the proper delegation of authority is the only means by which we can redeem our military system and our officers from the paralysing effects of relying for every detail of their task in time of peace on a central establishment in Pall Mall.

Perhaps the House would like to know where these army corps will be planted. The first three army corps are intended for foreign service, or, of course, for home defence in the first instance. The first army corps will be at Aldershot. It will be complete in every particular, except Reservists. It will include among the infantry a brigade of four battalions of the Guards. The system by which the Guards have acted as part of the garrison at Gibraltar will not be further followed. Arguments which had great force four years ago have, in one respect, less force now. I think I am right in saying that four years ago skirmishers were hardly divided from each other by a distance the breadth of this table; skirmishers in South Africa under modern conditions have been divided from each other by the length of this House, and the training of troops in a limited space has become infinitely more difficult now under the new conditions than it was when we first considered the garrison at Gibraltar. Under any circumstances, I think that it would be both useful for the Army and useful for the brigade of Guards that a brigade of Guards should be permanently stationed at Aldershot. The second army corps will have its headquarters at Salisbury Plain. We are building large barracks on Salisbury Plain, and the land acquired there is of inestimable value for the training of troops for musketry and for other purposes. By planting these two army corps at these particular centres we shall have them not merely in the best possible positions for the defence of the country, but also at the easiest points for embarkation and in the most facile position for manœuvring. Therefore those two are ideal centres for our first two army corps. The third army corps, which will also consist almost entirely of Regulars, will be quartered in Ireland. The barracks there have always been kept p on a considerable scale, and with a certain readjustment will completely house the troops necessary for that army corps, with the exception of three Militia battalions. The three Militia battalions, should the army corps go on foreign service, will, of course, be replaced by other troops.

When I come to the fourth army corps I come to a subject which I think will be of great interest to the House. That army corps will have its headquarters at Colchester. With the full concurrence, I might almost say on the initiative, of the Commander-in-Chief, admitting for the first time that picked Militia and Volunteer battalions can be ranged with Regular troops in the first line, we propose to employ altogether in the last three army corps sixty battalions of Volunteers and Militia, which have been carefully selected. The Volunteer battalions will have special training, they will be invited on special terms to undertake special training liability each year, and if they cannot come up to those conditions, and if on the inspection each year, which will be by no means a formal inspection, any particular battalion is not found equal to its work, it will lapse from the army corps, and another battalion will replace it. We go further, we propose for the first time to give the Militia and Volunteers, within limits, a certain number of field guns. I have lived through, and so has the right hon. Gentleman opposite, three sets of opinion at the War Office. The first was that it was very desirable to have Volunteer artillery—Volunteers liked to join—but that it was not necessary to find them in guns. I think the right hon. Gentleman was at the War Office when it was decided that they might be entrusted with the handling of heavy garrison guns. I know that I was at the War Office when we persuaded the military authorities to go a step further and allow them to take heavy guns of position into the field. But that system halted there for twelve years. Lord Roberts is willing to make a great and final step in advance, and to agree that with certain training he will rely, from the experience of this war, on Volunteer batteries, a certain proportion in each of the last three army corps. The admirable practice made by the C.I.V. batteries in the Transvaal satisfied Lord Roberts that that step could be taken without danger. Therefore, in each of the last three army corps, while there will be a considerable proportion of Regular troops, and in each fourteen batteries of Regular artillery, one-third of the army corps, that is seven batteries, will be found in each of the last three army corps by the Volunteers and Militia. The army corps with its headquarters at Colchester will have attached to it some of the best London Militia and Volunteers. The fifth army corps, which will be stationed at York, will draw on the best Volunteer and Militia battalions of Lancashire and Yorkshire. We propose to house the sixth, and last, army corps in Scotland. I feel that the War Office owes so much to Scotland that Scotland ought to obtain a special place. Our Scottish regiments, even in comparison with others, and notably our Irish regiments, have done magnificent work in this war. As we all know, there is a great national feeling in Scotland, and I think that both by their patriotism and by their contribution to the national finances they are entitled to some consideration at our hands. Some part of our barracks loan will be spent in building necessary barracks in Scotland. The headquarters of this army corps will be placed in Edinburgh.

The House will see, I think, that we have not adapted our organisation to our existing resources. I shall have to call on the House to produce the necessary result by giving us the necessary troops. The first difficulty in which I am placed is whether or not I am to ask the House to add to our Regular forces. I am reluctant to do so. In the last three or four years we have added between 40,000 and 50,000 men to our Regular forces, and I am not at all sure that we have not reached the limit of our recruiting power under present circumstances. In any case I should like to see the regiments already proposed to be raised, and the larger number of batteries that we added last year, and which are now to a considerable extent manned by Reservists—I should like to see their fate assured after the Reservists return to their homes before I ask the House in any respect to add to the Regular Army. But that does not prevent our needing more Regular troops; and I propose, therefore, that we should obtain those troops, not by raising fresh ones, but by freeing some of our Regular troops who are shut up in garrisons from the duties in which they are at present engaged. We propose to take three steps in that direction. The House may have seen—because it was necessary to put out an Army Order a few days ago—that in the first place we propose to raise eight garrison battalions. If we are to use to the full extent the military power of the country, we have got to take military opinion as to the longest period for which the men can properly serve and utilise the services of those who are willing to continue in the Army. There is nothing in the least degree repugnant to the spirit of short service if, having obtained the services of the man with the colours and in the Reserve, we proceed to utilise any further services he is willing to give to the country. We propose to form these garrison battalions of men of more than fourteen years service, and in some cases of twelve years, limiting their services, except in rare cases, up to twenty-one years, when in the great majority of cases they are still under forty years of age. I think the House will see the common sense of this proposal. When you are placing men at stations like Gibraltar and Malta, where at the outside they can only be a few miles away from their own barracks, it is not necessary to have so rigid a standard of the extremest physical competency as you require from men who may have for many weeks to undergo the hardships of a campaign. I think men between thirty and forty, and some perhaps even a little later, would be admirably qualified for that service. Lord Roberts has gladly consented to select from the large available force of men who leave the colours and Reserve every year enough men to make up eight garrison battalions. The terms we offer will, I hope, prove sufficiently attractive.

I will mention one point of special interest to the House: we give them the hope of a pension. That pension I wish to place on a wholly different footing from the pensions which have been given hitherto. Up to the present a man has got 10d. or 1s. a day on leaving the colours, and has got that amount until he dies. That is too much. It is not needed by a man when he is in full vigour of health and earning full wages, but it is too little when he gets to old age. To give a larger sum would be an enormous charge on the Exchequer. After all, many men will have earned it in the very prime of life, when they have still a long time in which they may hope to labour. We propose to give a pension which will be equivalent to what a man would have earned if he had been in the Reserve—namely, 6d. a day from the time of his leaving the garrison battalion—and to make that 6d. up to 1s. 6d. when he has attained the age of sixty-five, thereby, I hope, establishing a system of old-age pensions.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: May I ask whether these will be men who have completed their Reserve service?

*MR. BRODRICK: Certainly; we do not mean to impinge upon the Reserve in any way. Some men serve twelve years with the colours, and those men will not go into the Reserve afterwards, but may be possibly allowed to go into the garrison regiments if they desire it. But, incidentally, let me remind the House that this will meet a want that has often been spoken of in this House, that with the limited number of men who do want to give long service, we shall provide a man who enters the Army, subject to good conduct, with the certainty of a future career.

That will give eight Line battalions for field service. I get five more by substituting at certain fortresses five Indian battalions, who in the tropics are equally efficient for the work and would save us sending five battalions of young soldiers into a tropical climate. We pay India for raising these five battalions. Already two or three of them have taken up their duties. We propose to raise those to five in the present year. By that means we gain thirteen battalions.

I come now to a subject upon which I have a very strong feeling myself, but on which I cannot give an absolute decision or pronouncement to the House. The War Office view is that the time has come for the smaller coaling stations to be taken over by the Admiralty. I do not mean fortresses like Malta and Gibraltar, but the smaller stations, like Singapore and Colombo and others, which are not attackable from the land, and in regard to which, therefore, you would have this gain, that you would not have two authorities in the island, but one. You would have the Admiralty supreme in their own domain and you would not lock up our infantry, and, with a constant change of ships, you would give the Admiralty a chance of relieving some of those men and providing others as the exigencies of the service might demand. But that subject requires a great deal of examination, and the First Lord of the Admiralty has not yet seen his way to give a final decision. But if I am able to prevail, and I trust I may, we shall then have five more battalions, making eighteen in all available to be added for home service. The distribution will now be in the future —allowing twelve battalions permanently in South Africa and making provision for the coaling stations—seventy-nine battalions of the Line at home and seventy-seven abroad.

MR. COURTENAY WARNER (Staffordshire, Lichfield): Will that include the Guards?

*MR. BRODRICK: No; the ten battalions of the Guards are separate.

I come now to the Militia. The Militia is a great problem. It is the old constitutional force. It has not only been a great stand-by in days gone by, but in this war it has practically helped us at moments of very great difficulty. Thirty-five battalions have gone abroad voluntarily, and by embodying others we shall of course have to start a nucleus for our reorganisation at home. The Militia should be 150,000 strong, but it is only 100,000 strong. There is something worse than that. We take in Militia recruits every year from 35,000 to 40,000 men. Deducting those who go to the Line, we have still left nearly 30,000 Militia recruits. They are engaged for six years, and by a very simple computation the House will arrive at this fact, that at the very least these 30,000 men, engaged for six years, ought to give us a force of from 150,000 to 180,000 men. As a matter of fact we have to take and train about 30,000 each year, and we only produce 100,000 of a total force on the six years engagement. The reason is very simple. The inducements we offer the men are not sufficient to keep them. The Militia service has always been on the principle of making it very easy for a man to come in and go out. By a very cheap system of purchase he can find his way out when he is tired of serving. We mean to make things better for the Militia. It is perfectly true that some men are lost by desertion, who probably come in to drill when they cannot find work; but there are others, and Militia officers tell me by far the larger number, who honestly think the Militia service is not good enough, and, especially when they marry, they decide to leave. Martial ardour and marital ardour do not seem to run together in the Militia, and we want to give them an inducement to get over that critical moment until, after two or three years of matrimony, they may be willing to contemplate a little war in order to get a little peace. With the object of getting them at the critical moment, we propose to make a special arrangement for them. In the first place we shall give the Militia in future the Army ration, the extra 3d. a day for rations which was given to the Army three years ago. In addition to that I propose to reconstruct the old conditions of bounties. At present the trained Militiaman gets a bounty of £1 10s. when he leaves; we propose to give him a sovereign at three other times in the year — £4 10s. in all; so that the net gain to the Militia will be 3d. extra a day during training and 3d. extra a day after training and in the intervals. We therefore hope we shall make our service more attractive in that respect.

But we have another and much larger scheme. I propose also to establish a Reserve for the Militia. I propose to abolish the present Militia Reserve for the Army. I do so on two grounds. In the first place these men who have taken a pound a year hitherto and never expected to be called out to join the Army have given their services in South Africa in the most uncomplaining fashion. I doubt whether there are many of them who will take a pound a year for the liability of such service again. Therefore I propose to abolish the Militia Reserve; the more so as I think it most unfair to the Militia that they should themselves be forced to go into action after they have been denuded of a good many of their best men. In substitution of the Militia Reserve I propose to have a genuine Reserve of Militia, to be composed of two classes of men—Militiamen who have done ten years service in the Militia, and Line men who have done fourteen years service with the line colour and Reserve. A man after he has done fourteen years' service will have an opportunity of going into a garrison regiment or going into the reserve of the Militia. The Militiaman is to have two periods of service—that is to say, ten years, and an opportunity of enrolling his name as a reserve for the Militia. He will be obliged only to be called on for shooting training on such occasions as may be necessary. We propose to give this Reserve 4d. a day. We anticipate that their liability being only to serve inside the country—Great Britain and Ireland—the opportunity will be largely availed of. I have every reason to believe that, having fixed this figure, we shall be able to get 50,000 men for the Reserve of the Militia, who will be available in case of the Militia being embodied for the defence of the country. That will make up the Militia from 100,000 to 150,000, without adding a man to those who are at present serving or calling upon the country for a single additional recruit. I believe that to be not only an inexpensive course, but that it will bring the Militia up to strength and fit it for the duty we propose to assign to it.

Although I fear these proposals are very lengthy, I am afraid I must trouble the House at some little length further about the Yeomanry. The Yeomanry is our sole mounted force. Up to now it has accompanied the Volunteer reserve of this country. It has been drilled as cavalry in shock tactics. It has remained at its present figure of 10,000 to a large extent owing to the difficulties as regards expense, also to the fact that while our national wealth has so greatly increased, the agricultural classes from which the force is drawn have not kept pace with that increase of wealth. We mean to have in the Yeomanry a nucleus of that much larger body of mounted troops which is now required by the exigencies of modern warfare. You have now greater distances to cover, and flanking movements must be carried out by mounted troops, and scouting has to be done on a wider plan. Our artillery has also to be protected to a much larger extent. We believe that it is not only absolutely necessary to obtain more mounted troops, but that, under more favourable conditions, there are very large numbers of men in the country who would rather serve the King mounted than on foot. Our experience during the last few weeks, during which we have been able to raise 15,000 mounted men for duties in South Africa, shows there is no disinclination for that form of service. May I say one word in recognition of what the Yeomanry have done in past years in equipping and bringing together the Yeomanry force which has gone to South Africa, and which, without exception—except, perhaps, the colonial troops—have been of the greatest service to Lord Roberts and Lord Kitchener? I feel so strongly the value of the services they have rendered, and the desirability of releasing them as early as may be possible, that I have asked Lord Kitchener, in view of the large number of mounted men who are now on their way out, to consider the hard cases amongst them, men who really have lost or may lose their employment, and he has undertaken as quickly as he can to deal with such cases, and release such men as soon as possible.

Now, we intend to put our money on the Yeomanry, and we expect great results. I am glad to say we shall have some support for the changes we propose to make from the ranks of the Yeomanry themselves. I asked a number of Yeomanry officers to form a committee, which gave us a most excellent report in January last. They propose changes in drill, changes in uniform, and changes in the organisation of the force. They went at their work in a broad and enlightened spirit, and, as befitting men who ride horses, they took an extremely cheerful view of everything, even including the character and disposition towards them of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. I cannot honestly say that I shall be able to follow them in all the recommendations for expenditure which they made. But Lord Roberts, who has carefully considered their report, has come to the conclusion that we ought largely to increase them, and the title under which we propose to do it is the Imperial Yeomanry, now consecrated to us by excellent service in South Africa. Their uniform will be khaki, giving them a proper interval in which to change the present uniform at a minimum of loss. I say nothing of the officers, who may, perhaps, require to keep their mess uniform. We do not want to interfere with these old arrangements, but there must be a change of arms. It is impossible for us to contemplate training the Yeomanry for sword practice, and Lord Roberts is strongly of opinion that the sword must be given up. He wishes them to be armed with a shortened rifle and bayonet. The officer will probably retain the sword, and in the further arming of the Yeomanry it is a question whether we should substitute the revolver for the sword. There is a great difference of opinion on that subject, but I will not detain the House by discussing it to-night. When I suggested to a friend, a Member of this House, that a revolver was more than an equivalent at close quarters to a sword, he said, "If you had to try it you would not think so." I invited him to bring his sword into Hyde Park the following morning, and I would come there mounted and with a revolver, and we would see who was the better man. I am bound to say that, although my friend did not accept the combat, he turned my flank, for he said, "It is all very well when one is pitted against one, but it is a very serious thing to go into a charge with a lot of men with revolvers in their hands," and he instanced the case of an officer in the charge at Omdurman who succeeded in putting a bullet into one of his own troopers and another into his colonel's horse. Consequently I do not propose to solve the great question whether Yeomanry should be given revolvers or a sword.

The reorganisation will be on these lines. We shall train them for eighteen days, of which fourteen days will be obligatory. They will be trained in camp. The pay will be 5s. a day, with ration allowance and forage. The officers will receive cavalry Army rates and a consolidated pay of 10s. for rations and forage. But the greatest change we make, and which we think will bring in a large number of men, is the giving to each Yeoman who brings a horse of his own £5 a year. In the case of those who have not got horses of their own, we propose to provide them with a Government horse, which we believe we can do by developing that excellent system of registration by which for 10s. a year we obtained 14,000 of the very best horses on the very day we required them. We propose to extend that system by paying £5 a year to obtain a month's use of a horse as well as the registration. That will enable us to find mounts for these Yeomen who are unable to find horses for themselves. We propose that each regiment shall be of four squadrons making 500 men, and we propose to keep up all the county associations, to retain distinctive titles, and we shall try through the lord lieutenants of counties to form fresh regiments in other counties. We propose to bring the force up to a total strength of 35,000. Before I leave this subject I wish to say that I trust the day is not far distant when some of our colonial brethren who have given us mounted assistance during this war will be willing, subject to the consent of their own Government, to keep up mounted contingents, also under the title of Imperial Yeomanry, who, when occasion demands, will be available to join our own Yeomanry should they ever volunteer to go abroad.

Now we come to the Volunteers. I am not going to speak at any great length about them. Everybody knows what their past has been; and do not let it be supposed that I am wanting in appreciation of the Volunteers when I say that what we desire in the Volunteer force is not so much numbers as efficiency. Those Volunteers who are to be members of the army corps must be efficient, or they will be absolutely worthless. You cannot brigade men with regular troops unless you get a certain training from them. What we are going to do with the Volunteers is this. We shall offer that each of these special twenty-five battalions of infantry shall attend camp for thirteen days, exclusive of their coming and going, and we shall give each man a daily grant of 5s., paid to the corps, and to each officer a daily grant of 11s. 6d. We shall require that every man shall have attended ten drills before he comes into camp that year, thirty, of course, if he is a recruit. We shall also require that every man shall have done his musketry for the year. We propose to give them such training in manœuvring and reconnaissance as will make them really valuable members of the corps. We propose to give a special training to the fifteen batteries of field artillery which will form part of the army corps, and we have ordered, and I hope shall be in a position to place in the hands of the Volunteers before very long, in substitution for their present heavy guns, which are not of sufficient range, 4·7 guns, which will be placed in the positions selected for the defence of London. The remainder of the Volunteers will have the opportunity of going to camps as heretofore, but under rather more stringent conditions. We shall also require of them to have done a certain number of drills before they go into camp, and in future, not this year, we shall require—instead of thirty drills in the first year, thirty in the second year, and twelve in the third—thirty in the first year, thirty in the second year, and twenty in the third year. If Volunteers cannot fulfil these conditions, then we think we are better with a rather smaller force in camp, but a more efficient one. There is one other remark which I must make. There are at present a certain number of Volunteer companies of mounted infantry. They are very useful in their way, but we cannot have two forces of dissimilar description grouped together. After this year we shall have to ask these Volunteer mounted infantry either to make themselves a nucleus of the Imperial Yeomanry or attach themselves to one of the regiments.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: Are you doing anything to improve the training of Volunteer officers?

*MR. BRODRICK: We shall take steps by means of schools, but this is one of the numerous questions which have been before us. We fully realise that officers in both the Militia and Volunteers will require further opportunities for training. When they are being trained all their expenses are to be paid.

*SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT (Sheffield, Ecclesall): What is the proportion between the Line regiments and the Volunteers in the last three army corps?

*MR. BRODRICK: I think there will be one division of the Line and two divisions of Volunteers.

*MR. M'CRAE (Edinburgh, E.): Is there any proposal to pay Volunteers going into ordinary camps? That is very important.

*MR. BRODRICK: They will get a rather larger sum, 2s. 6d. instead of 2s., and the officers will get 8s. instead of 4s., but we shall put them under rather more stringent regulations as to the time they stay in camp.

Therefore the net result of our proposals is this. We free a very considerable body of Regulars from garrison service for field service; we make up our Militia to war strength; we provide adequate artillery and mounted troops for all our army corps; we train better the Volunteers, who are to be given special grants. We shall have an additional number of Regulars—namely, 11,500; we shall have 50,000 more Militia in the new Militia Reserve; we shall have 25,000 more Yeomanry; and we shall have 40,000 more trained Volunteers. The net addition, therefore, under my scheme will be 126,500 men, and that, even allowing £60,000 for the staff of the new army corps, will be achieved by an expenditure of a little under £2,000,000. Before I say a word on central organisation I should like to clear away some mistakes which have entered into people's minds with regard to the efficacy of our present arms.

Questions as to the number of men are for politicians to decide on the advice of experts; but when you come to the range and power of artillery and the efficacy of rifles, obviously we have reached a point at which experts must be our sole guides. I have asked Lord Roberts to give me his opinion on the efficacy of our artillery in South Africa. His views are as follows—

> "The testimony of generals in command and of our artillery officers, in which opinion I coincide, is that our field artillery gun is on the whole a good and effective weapon. It has powerful shrapnel; it has accuracy; it has moderate weight behind the teams, all of which are important elements in artillery guns. It is entirely satisfactory in these respects. The open country and clear atmosphere of South Africa have shown that, as regards range and power, an improvement is necessary. This has, to a certain extent, been effected during the war by the provision of slow-burning fuses. As regards rapidity of fire, some improvement is certainly necessary, and the matter is now under consideration. Our horse artillery gun needs improvement in several respects, and a Committee is now sitting to consider how its shortcomings can best be remedied."

I may here say, with regard to these matters, that I have put some £50,000 into the Estimates with a view to meeting any immediate provision which the Committee may suggest.

> "A want which has been brought to light by the war in South Africa is the necessity of having a proportion of heavy guns to accompany the Army in the field, to be worked not as guns of position, but as a more deliberate and slowly-moving field gun. A good deal has been said about the impediment of such guns on the march. No doubt they do take up room, but they have the compensating advantage of a heavy shell at long range, and that outweighs the disadvantages."

We have already put on order 200 of the 4·7 guns, which are, I believe, of the precise calibre which it is desired to use as heavy field artillery. I hope they will be coming in very shortly. The House will see that Lord Roberts's opinion, subject to that modernising which all artillery is undergoing at the present time, is that we have no reason to be dissatisfied with the artillery gun, which I remember was accounted by our experts about three or four years ago still to be the best field gun in Europe. Then I have asked Lord Roberts to give me a Report as regards our rifle. We have heard a great deal about the Mauser rifle and its advantages as compared with our own Lee-Metford. I believe that these ideas have received no confirmation by the war. Lord Roberts says—

> "Our rifles have stood the test of the campaign admirably as regards range, accuracy, mechanism, solidity, and thoroughness of their manufacture. But they would be still more suitable for Army purposes if they were a little shorter and a little lighter, because they could then be used by cavalry as well as infantry. These changes can, it is believed, be made without in any way affecting their range and accuracy. Experiments have been tried with an improved sight on a shortened and lightened rifle."

I have read these opinions verbatim, because I believe they will be very reassuring to the House.

But I realise that, even if we provide the Army with a proper number of men and efficient weapons and good officers, it would be absolutely useless unless we can to some extent meet the defects which have been shown to exist in the drill and training of our troops. I said just now that we hoped to get less barrack square drill, and I should like to add that, if possible, I hope we may get less sentry-go. I believe that sentry-go is the most paralysing effort of the soldier's life. It is certainly not good for health, and not of any advantage to the young soldier. With regard to drill, in which I am somewhat out of my depth, I believe the German manual exercise has got three positions and that our manual exercise has ten positions. I cannot help thinking that the fewer positions and more musketry training you can give to our soldiers the better. And I think this bears also on the question of getting recruits. There is no doubt that this increased training of the soldier does to a great extent make his life during the time he has to be trained a harder one. I do not propose to deal again, as we did three years ago, with the question of the soldier's pay. I have myself the gravest doubts whether any increased pay we could give, unless we gave something like double, would really bring in a different stamp of recruit. It has often been said how recruits are attracted to the Army, but a great deal of it is due to locality and to association. It may interest the House to know that I have received from a high quarter a Return of the benefactions made by her late Majesty last year to those families who have got the largest number of sons serving in the Army. I find that of three sons in the Army in one family there were no less than 100 cases; four sons, 176 cases; five sons, 142 cases, six sons, 74; seven sons, 20; eight sons two; nine sons, one case; and one instance of ten sons serving in the Army. I think that shows that there is a considerable military feeling in certain families and in certain localities. What we are doing for the soldier this year is that we hope to make his life easier; we hope to give, by means of Garrison Battalions and Militia Reserves, something like a career for those soldiers who wish to go back to the Army.

Lord Roberts is very anxious—and I entirely agree with him—that we should also try in some of our new barracks the experiment of cubicles, and in other respects see whether we can give more comfort in barracks. We also propose to change the dress of the Army this year, leaving the full-dress, which is absolutely necessary for the attraction of recruits, but having the same dress for fighting as for other work in this country. That will give the great advantage that when a regiment is ordered abroad it has in its possession, except its full-dress, the exact dress required for fighting in all circumstances, instead of having to be completely re-equipped. In doing this we have considerably improved the material and have added some underclothing as well.

But if the difficulty of training the men is great, the difficulty of training the officers is much greater. I am not altogether satisfied that Woolwich and Sandhurst provide us with all the training we ought to expect in an officer. My hon. friend the Member for King's Lynn put to me a question of a very pregnant description when I was answering questions one day last June on behalf of the Under Secretary to the War Office, in which he wanted to know the precise dates on which Lord Roberts, Lord Kitchener, General French, and three or four other generals had left the Staff College. I was not able to oblige him. The dates had escaped my memory at the time, and Lord Roberts has not been able to refresh it. I am afraid there is no doubt, without saying a word against the Staff College, that it has been proved that men without a Staff College training have made a very fair hand at military affairs. Although I do not in the least degree prejudge what should be done, I do feel that the time has come to ask a small Educational Committee to report to us on the education given at Woolwich and Sandhurst and to consider whether or not any change in the system of admitting candidates to the Army should now take place. This is not an immediately pressing matter, for this reason—we must give commissions to a large number of men this year, and I hold, and I believe the House will hold, that the first claim on our attention for commissions in the Army are the men who in various capacities have gone out with the Militia and Regular troops to serve in South Africa, and have given satisfaction to their commanding officers. I propose to put at the disposal of Lord Kitchener a very considerable number of commissions this year, to be allotted on the reports of the commanding officers; and I beg here to make this statement, because I know a deluge of letters will reach me otherwise, that I have no influence whatever with Lord Kitchener. In all probability it would rather go against the man if I were to interfere on his behalf. When we come to the drill and training of officers I do not want to be misunderstood. We say most distinctly that we shall require from officers in the future a larger share of professional spirit in the Army. I do not want to say a word against the accomplishments on which young Englishmen pride themselves and which add to their courage and endurance—whether it be polo, or hunting, or steeplechasing or cricket or any other manual acquirement. I clearly realise what the advantages of those acquirements are to the Army. But it is not enough that our officers, when they get into action, should be brave or should be willing to volunteer to rush to the front. We must make it clear that professional requirements are to come first. While we will do our very best to get the cream of the youth of Great Britain into our Army, we must get out of the Army those who do not mean to enter it in a professional spirit. Before I leave this question of the training of officers, let me say that I must come to the House and ask for facilities for the carrying on of manœuvres—facilities which are in the interest of the country, even if at the expense of private individuals—in order to make things more easy than they are at present. We must at least give the officer a chance of learning his trade.

There is one subject which is of interest to the House on which I must say a word. That is, the restricted field we have for obtaining officers by reason of the enormous expenses to which they are put. Nothing could be more difficult to deal with than this subject. I do not myself believe in sumptuary laws. They have been tried by many monarchs, but they have never succeeded; and to lay down that no mess is to charge more than 3s. for dinner, or that no one is to drink champagne is absurd. But there are some things that you can do. There is, first, the ridiculous expense of dress in the Army. If the House will pardon me I will give the chief prices of our uniforms and of those in the German army. I take prices of uniforms in the German army, in the stores of this country, and at a fashionable tailor's. Trousers in the German army cost 25s., in the stores in this country 66s., and at the tailor's from 55s. to 105s. The highest price of tunics in the German army is 54s., the lowest store price here is 125s., and at the tailor's 168s. The great-coat of the German officer costs 70s. Our store price is 118s., and at the tailor's 168s. The forage cap in Germany is 5s., and £1 here. The items which approach each other are dog-skin gloves, which are 4s. in Germany and 4s. 3d. here, the difference perhaps being accounted for by the tax on dogs. The result is, that the cost to a second lieutenant entering the German army is £18 12s. 6d.; here at the stores the cost is £48 12s., and at the tailor's £86. I propose to establish a system of getting good cutters and makers, by which officers will be able to get from our Government establishments uniforms at cost price. The difficulty about that, again, is the same difficulty as besets us about the expenses of chargers. In a smart regiment I do not think that a Government tunic would be looked at. In the same way a Government horse is never taken in some regiments. We have supported the excellent arrangement by which an officer bound to provide himself with a horse is entitled to take one or two chargers by paying £10 to the Government for each horse—an excellent bargain to the officer. I think what we aim to do in these matters cannot be done by legislation or by Army Orders, but it can be done, we think, by influence. I think that Lord Roberts is prepared to call together the colonels of cavalry regiments when they return to England and put before them the difficulty which we are under of getting cavalry officers, owing to the enormous expense. I think we shall find that expensive corps do not always mean efficient colonels. In cases in which we find that young officers are unable to enlist because of the extravagance on the part of the corps, we may have to revise the arrangements as a whole, leaving aside the fact that a very rich man must always be allowed to spend his money as he likes if he does not infect others.

Now we come to the next and, to many Members, the most interesting part of Army reform, and that is the reform of the War Office. I am not in a position to-night to enter into that engrossing topic the Order in Council. A good deal has been said about it lately in another place, but I am not able to go into it at length for two reasons. In the first place, Lord Roberts, who communicated with me on this subject before returning to England, entirely concurred with the Government in believing that at this moment, with all we have upon us, it is more important that we should carry on the business of bringing the war to a conclusion, preparing the Estimates, and getting ready our scheme for this year rather than in occupying our minds in mending the machinery by which the scheme is to be carried out. In the second place, Lord Roberts, not having before been at the War Office, was willing and anxious to have the experience of the War Office before he made up his mind as to whether any and what change was necessary. I will ask the House, therefore, to defer the subject for a short time. I have myself no strong preconceived opinions in regard to some of the points at issue. In the first place, I cannot contemplate any sort of struggle between the Commander-in-Chief and the Secretary of State for predominance. As far as Lord Roberts is concerned, when I was at the War Office before and he was not, I think that on almost every occasion of any difficulty I asked for his advice. I asked for it when he was in command in Ireland. My own feeling is that outside the charmed circle of the War Office there is almost as good advice to be got as is to be got inside, and I think the Secretary of State has not merely a right, but a duty, to make himself personally acquainted with a large number of officers. I myself have always endeavoured to see, without distinction, any officers returning from South Africa from high commands there. The position at this moment as regards the supervisional control of the various military officers is one which must be considered as time enables us to consider it, and we shall not unduly put it off.

But to my mind, far beyond all regulations, and all laws, and all arrangements for division of duty, is the consideration that there should be hearty co-operation and mutual understanding between the Secretary of State and the Commander-in-Chief; and I, of course, am specially fortunate as Secretary of State in having to deal with a Commander-in-Chief fresh from the command of 220,000 men in the field, who has got at his fingers' ends every detail of the military problems and has seen the work in the field of every officer he may have to appoint. Happy is the Minister who finds himself in such a case; and I have no fear that, in respect to reform of the War Office, anything will suffer from deferring for a short time the solution of these problems. But, Sir, let the House of Commons understand that the predominance of the Secretary of State in War Office matters is not nearly so much a predominance which he may desire himself as that which is forced upon him by the House of Commons. Take the last day or two. I could not come down here and say even that I have left to Lord Kitchener the arrangements with regard to prisoners and refugees without myself being urged to interfere with Lord Kitchener. I had to argue a week ago the question of courts-martial and other important questions of that kind. There was a general desire on the part of the House that the power of the civil Government should make itself responsible for the action taken by the chiefs of the Army. The main amount of interference with military affairs is caused by civilians in the House of Commons itself, who desire the personal influence of the Secretary of State in all departments.

Before I leave the War Office let me say that I have myself asked for a Committee to advise us as to the changes that are necessary. I believe great changes are necessary. I am prepared to make them. At the same time I do ask that different and divergent questions may not be mixed up with any mistakes of the system there may be in the War Office. I hear nothing and read nothing but these unmitigated indictments of all that has been done by that Department—ascribing to the War Office all the failures that have occurred during the war. I believe that to be a grave injustice. This House and the Government and various Governments have told the War Office to organise with a view to a certain state of things. They have had to provide for sending double or treble the men abroad contemplated under their organisation. During the last fifteen months I believe the supplies for our Army have not been equalled in our history or in that of any nation in any war that ever took place. Lord Roberts himself states that the supplies sent to South Africa were ample in all respects for men as well as animals. Lord Roberts states—

> "My wishes were always forestalled with regard to them. It is true that men did not always receive full rations, but that was caused by the length of the lines of communication and the difficulties of distribution."

I think that is a very considerable testimony. I think the fact that, without breakdown, the organisation, against great difficulties, has dealt with this war during the last eighteen months requires some consideration from the House, and I think it would be very hard if the House does not associate with this result the services of the Adjutant General, Sir Evelyn Wood, who has managed to find men as fast as they could be shipped; the Quartermaster General, Sir C. Mansfield Clarke, whose department has never been found wanting; and, last but not least, the Director General of Ordnance, Sir H. Brackenbury, who has had to meet demands never dreamt of in the supply of military stores and has never yet fallen short. It would be hard on them if they were not associated in the commendation of the House with those civilians who had worked not only from morning to night, but until advanced hours of the morning, to see that the War Office was not found wanting.

But I entirely concur with those who think that the system of the War Office should be remodelled. I believe the great unpopularity of the Department is due to the fact that it is dilatory and too much tied up by regulations.. It may be that the War Office system of dealing with letters is a dilatory system. The number of letters delivered at the War Office is 3,500 a day, which requires to be dealt with—a correspondence which is on a scale unexampled in any other Department, and, I believe, in most private businesses. It needs an admirable system to work operations of that kind. I have, however, laid down a variety of reforms which I trust may have some effect. In the first place, I have laid it down that all letters that do not involve reference to other Departments must be answered on the day. Secondly, I have largely stopped the Minutes from one person to another, holding, as I do, that if people cannot agree by writing a Minute on either side, they had better meet and settle the question. But I am sorry to say we have yet to teach officers at a distance that business habits are as essential as good military discipline. Perhaps the House will allow me to give one or two illustrative instances of what I mean. Shortly after I took office I received a letter from a Reservist who had made application to join the

South African Constabulary, and who for two months had waited without receiving an answer. I made inquiry, and I was told that the man ought not to write to the Secretary of State, and I quite agree with that; but it is difficult to debar a man from taking some means to get an answer. But I wished to know whether the man was to be allowed to go or not, and I waited a considerable time for an answer. I waited a fortnight, and, hearing nothing, I wrote again, requesting a prompt reply, for which I waited another week. Then I sent a telegram saying that I must know, and still nothing came. At the end of the fourth week I thought the time had come to exercise my authority. I indicated to the authorities that if I did not receive an answer on the following morning somebody would go on half-pay. I got an answer the next morning. The application had gone about among military officers, but meanwhile the man's case was not settled, as it should have been. In consequence of the multiplication of such cases as this it became necessary that the Adjutant General should lay down a regulation that all officers should open their own letters. I do not mean that they should not employ clerks, but that each officer should be responsible for seeing the work done. I certainly think that the interest of the public service demands that a man under discipline who makes such an application should have a prompt reply. Here is another case. A paper came before me last November, and that paper was in relation to the question whether a particular cottage should be shut up, or pulled down, or repaired at an expenditure of £130. Then I ascertained the history of that paper. It started in 1896, and came to me in November, 1900. In the interval it had been touring about between three military officers. In the second year it reached the War Office, and the Assistant Under Secretary sent it to the Commander-in-Chief, who gave certain orders. Then, as officers had been changed meanwhile, it went again on its peregrinations, and the result was that, after four years, the matter still remained unsettled. I sent it to Lord Wolseley, requesting him to see that whatever orders he gave were executed. Making a little more inquiry, I learned the result, which reminds me of the trial of the pig in "Alice," for deserting his sty, the pig being found when sentence was pronounced to have been dead for some years. So, in this case, I found that the cottage over which all this had taken place had been shut up three years ago by order of the sanitary authority. Dealing with such cases, I cannot but remember that we have got to teach a body of men to whom we delegate large powers, which some of them use admirably, that business habits must be enforced.

But I realise fully that neither rewards or penalties will carry us as far as we should go in this matter. You will not secure loyal service unless you retain the confidence of those who serve you. Too long there has been supposed to be a distinction between the civil and military departments at the War Office. There seems to be an assumption in the Army that duty to the Commander-in-Chief does not include the service of the War Office as such, and that the saving of money was not the saving of the country's money but the War Office money. Now, I wish to do everything in my power to remove this feeling. Lord Roberts is working with me in every respect, and I with him, to make the Army feel that loyalty to the Commander-in-Chief means loyalty to the War Office also. We cannot get rid of the civilian element, and I do not wish in any way to reflect on the admirable service of the eminent men who have served the War Office. Among the younger men, especially with high attainments, there is an ambition to render the best service in their power; still I think that the hard and fast line between the civil and military elements at the War Office should, so far as is consistent with the interests of the public service, be broken down. For many years it has been the custom of the Secretary of State to be, as it were, in laager encircled by civilians, with a civilian Under Secretary, a civilian Parliamentary Secretary, a civilian Financial Secretary, and a civilian private secretary; and through this hedge it was difficult for a military officer to approach him. Now, I have done what I can to break down this division. In the recently appointed permanent Under Secretary—Colonel Ward—we have a man of recent brilliant military experience, and recommended by Lord Roberts as the best military organiser for the post that he knew. I think myself most fortunate in having secured him. In the Parliamentary Under Secretary we are so fortunate as to have an officer who has served in the Guards and is one of the best Militia colonels, and who has ever taken the greatest interest in the service. Then, as the House well knows, as Financial Secretary we have my noble friend, whose services we are happy in securing after his recent South African experience, and who brings a fresh breezy atmosphere into the War Office. My private secretary is an officer of South African experience, and renders me the greatest possible assistance. We wish to carry this principle as far as we can; and I think there are many posts that can be most usefully filled by officers who can no longer go on active service, and more especially among those who have suffered in the war. I hope to take further steps in this direction, but for any general change in business I must wait to hear the conclusions arrived at by the Committee which has given so much time and attention to the subject.

To pull together what the House has allowed me to say, our object is to reorganise the Army, giving full equipment and stores, by strengthening the Regular military force, by bringing the Auxiliary forces up to strength and improving their training, by changes in drill and uniform, by training, by reform of War Office administration, the Medical service and the Transport service. On some points I cannot undertake that we will move in the present year. I have any number of cases brought before me every day involving what I may call immediately unproductive expenditure—the maintenance of schools, of cadet corps, the establishment of Volunteer reserves, the encouragement of rifle clubs—all these involve expenditure of large sums of money, and which, however ultimately desirable, do not conduce to immediate efficiency of the Army, and I must be content for the present to do as I have said. We shall ask the House to maintain an Army of about 155,000 at home, a Reserve of 90,000, Militia 150,000, Yeomanry 35,000, and 250,000 Volunteers at least, allowing for some deductions under the more stringent conditions of service. We ask the House to take on the Estimates 680,000 men, the Field Army absorbing 260,000, the garrisons at home 196,000, the Volunteers for London defence 100,000, and the various staffs 4,000, so that in all we have 560,000 men allotted to various positions, giving a margin of 120,000 for recruits not trained, the sick, and other deductions in time of war. It is an organisation that may well tax the best energies of the War Office.

I know there are many gaps in the details of my statement and much that I have omitted. What I have aimed to do is to establish a standard up to which we can work and by which we can know what remains to be done. I must ask the House to look with favour on what I have attempted. I have been but four months in office, and I have had the advantage of Lord Roberts's advice for only half that time. During this time we have had to maintain 200,000 troops in South Africa and to equip and despatch 30,000 additional troops and to keep up the stores and supplies. The various reforms I have sketched out have involved an enormous amount of work at the War Office and a prodigious amount of correspondence. Added to this there have been more questions in the House and more debates in the House than ever War Minister had to engage in within such a period of time. The claims on my time have been great, and I mention this in no tone of complaint, but rather to secure the indulgence of the House towards any imperfections they may find in the scheme I have placed before them. Moreover, there is at all times to be dealt with the current business of a great Department, which I have seldom been able to take up before the evening. Complaint would be out of place, for no man feels more than I do how much every effort which we can make is due, and how small that effort is compared with the efforts which we have required of our troops in South Africa in the last fifteen months. And when I think of the

10,000 or 12,000 men whose lives have been given for the country in this war, and the much larger number of men who have come home suffering from wounds and disease, I cannot help feeling that by far the highest monument which we can raise, and the best recognition which we can give to their heroism is by founding on their experience an army system adequate to defend their countrymen at home, and to fulfil the demands necessarily made upon us for our colonies abroad. It is because I have been fortified by this feeling that I have felt that we should shrink from no labour, that we should shirk no difficulty, and fear no criticism, and I have a profound conviction that it is possible to build up an army that will be adequate to our needs. And I cannot but hope that, long after the discussions which divide us with regard to the war and to other political topics have been forgotten, it may be written in the history of this Government—yes, and of this Parliament—that they have unflinchingly set their hands to the great national work of the reform of the Army, and thereby gained both for the Government and for Parliament the abiding gratitude of their fellow-countrymen.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair."—(*Mr. Brodrick.*)

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): I propose to ask leave of the House to withdraw the motion in order to carry out the pledge I gave yesterday to the right hon. Gentleman opposite.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: That will be in accordance with the understanding. May I say that I should ill express the feeling of the House if I did not congratulate the right hon. Gentleman not only on the substance, but on the manner of the statement he has made.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Resolved, That this House will immediately resolve itself into the Committee of Supply.—(*Mr. Balfour.*)

Mr. Brodrick.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

ARMY (SUPPLEMENTARY) ESTIMATES, 1900–1901.

1. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £3,000,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for additional expenditure, due to the War in South Africa, in respect of the following Army Services, viz.: Vote 6. Transport and Remounts, £2,000,000; Vote 7. Provisions, Forage, and other Supplies, £1,000,000—Total, £3,000,000."

*SIR ARTHUR HAYTER (Walsall) congratulated the Secretary of State for War on the magnificent speech to which they had listened with appreciation and advantage. Dealing with the Estimates, the hon. Member called attention to the enormous loss of horses in connection with the South African campaign. That was a matter of which the Committee should take notice. Since the original Estimates were presented the total sum voted for remounts was no less than £8,100,000. While he recognised that this war had been carried on under exceptional circumstances, and in a climate which was very trying, he must call attention to the exceedingly bad arrangements which were made for the supply of horses. Our strongest cavalry regiments had 609 rank and file, but they had only 465 horses, or a permanent deficiency of 144. In the Household Cavalry regiments there were 404 rank and file, but only 275 horses, being a deficiency of 129. The result was that we had to go all over the world when the war broke out to find horses. We went to the Argentine Republic and to the London General Omnibus Company. The Argentine horses had been excessively bad. What we did in South Africa was to establish at a place called Maitland camp a depot for horses, and the animals, imported from all over the world, were taken to that place. He had received a letter from one of the officers employed there, and referring to the way the horses were treated the letter contained the following—

> "In October, 1899, war was declared, and I maintain that England at that moment was absolutely unprepared so far as remounts and horses generally were concerned. They therefore sent officers and veterinary surgeons to all parts of the globe and bought horses of every kind. This took time. The various regiments arrived at Maitland camp near Cape Town and waited there for their horses. The horses arrived in time, were at once seized on and sent up country. After four or five days in a truck they were detrained and marched with heavy men and much kit on their backs twenty or thirty miles, and so on day after day. The result was that they died in thousands, which was both cruel and costly. I therefore think some other system must be employed in the future."

The hon. Member agreed that some other method must be employed. Everyone acquainted with horses knew that after a voyage of 6,000 miles horses required alterative diet, gentle exercise, and good treatment. But our horses were hurried up country at once. If after the first two battles there had been sufficient cavalry we could have cut off the Boers in their retreat. He should like very much to know why Basuto ponies had not been employed. In a previous war there was a whole regiment who were mounted on Basuto ponies. The son of a popular Whip in that House, who had been out there, told him that he rode a Cape pony which carried him through the whole campaign. The gentleman was fifteen stone, and the pony which carried him, with full accoutrements, was perfectly well and fit now. We ought to have bought up every possible Cape pony. Besides their power of endurance, they were accustomed to the climate, and would have stayed the campaign better. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would give attention to having a better registration of horses. He hoped also that the cavalry regiments would, in point of horses, be brought up to the number of men. In Ireland if stallions were lent to various counties the Government ought to have right of pre-emption in the produce. One of the greatest blots in connection with the war was the deficiency in horses. He urged that some provision should be made whereby we would not be subjected to the same experience in future.

COLONEL NOLAN (Galway, N.) said he did not know anything about the Cape horses. The best horses for cavalry were Irish horses. That market had been altogether neglected by the Government for the last fifteen or twenty years, and the consequence was that there was a comparatively bad supply of horses in Ireland when the war broke out. He wished to know if that was exclusively the fault of the Government. The House of Commons voted plenty of money to pay for horses. They voted £40 a horse. It paid the farmer to produce a good cavalry horse for that sum. But the farmer did not get £40. He had tried to get the figures from the War Office, and he had put question after question in the House, but he had got very little information. The Army authorities were ruining their best breeding ground for horses—Ireland—by the practice of buying through dealers. Last year about 6,000 horses were purchased from dealers and 209 from non-dealers. The dealer got £40 per horse and paid only £28 to the farmer; and when the cavalry officer purchased direct from the farmer he paid only the same amount—£28—in order not to spoil the dealers' market. The consequence was, that for the last ten years farmers in Ireland had found that it did not pay to produce horses for the Army. While he believed that Irish horses were best for cavalry purposes, he did not mean to say that they were best for artillery. As a general rule the Irish horse had not sufficient weight for the artillery. There were many inconveniences from having to buy horses through dealers. The remedy for this was to make the cavalry colonel buy his horses direct from the farmer, giving him the price which was now paid to the dealer. He hoped the Secretary of State for War would turn over a new leaf in this matter.

*MR. FULLER (Wiltshire, Westbury) said he wished to support the hon. and gallant Member for North Galway in urging that remounts should be brought from farmers direct, not only in Ireland but also in this country. He had had some experience in the Yeomanry in the buying of remounts, and knew how easy it was to deal direct with the farmers in the west of England. It was the custom in the west of England for dealers to receive from £40 to £50 each for horses which they purchase in anticipation of a visit by an Army officer at half the money. He thought there ought to be a different system of purchase. The horses should be brought to certain centres for the inspection of Army officers and purchased direct from the breeders. The question was one of very considerable importance to breeders of horses in the west of England, and he earnestly pressed the right hon. Gentleman to turn over in his mind the possibility of meeting in some such way as he had suggested the wishes of the breeders of horses.

MR. KEARLEY (Devonport) said he wished to ask a question with regard to the fittings on board the South African transports, and the enormous loss of horses in consequence of their being faulty. On one of the transports, he believed it was the "Weimar," going from Bombay to Durban, the horses were swept overboard wholesale, simply because the fittings were of a faulty character. Some of the transports, on the other hand, had iron fittings of the very best character. He suggested that the Government should lay down specific regulations as to the sort of fittings to be used on board the transports, and that in the event of there being a loss of horseflesh caused by fittings of a non-regulation character the owners of the vessel should bear the cost. The suffering involved ought in itself to be sufficient to attract the attention of the War Office to the matter, and the Committee were entitled to some assurance that the question should be looked into, so that a repetition of the scandals which were far too prevalent at the early stages of the war would be avoided.

MR. BARTLEY (Islington, N.) said that he happened to be at Durban when the particular ship referred to by the last speaker came in. It was true that the few horses remaining were cut about in all directions, but it was hardly fair to put it down to the bad fittings. The real cause was that the captain of the vessel was not familiar with that part of the coast; he put out too far to sea, and there was a tremendous storm raging. There might possibly have been faults in the fittings, but that was not the main reason.

MR. KEARLEY said that as a matter of fact he was aware that a great deal of the loss of horseflesh on that ship was occasioned down below by a tank getting loose.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE WAR OFFICE (Lord STANLEY, Lancashire, Westhoughton) suggested that the hon. Member might be confusing two cases.

MR. KEARLEY was certain he was not mistaken, as it was only recently he was discussing the matter with a man on the ship. It was the case of the 9th Hussars. The fittings were wooden and faulty. But he did not rest his complaint upon one case. It was a matter of public notoriety that in the earlier stages of the war the fittings passed by the Army officials in London and Liverpool proved to be altogether inadequate.

MR. COCHRANE (Ayrshire, N.) agreed that as a general rule Argentine horses were very unsatisfactory. It would have been much better if more horses could have been purchased from Ireland. His experience of Irish horses was limited to one, for which he paid, as he thought, a very high price. But although he worked that horse very hard in South Africa, he had no difficulty in selling it out there for £10 more than he originally gave for it. That might be a good tip for the Government, because, if they did not want to bring the horses back, the people out there would buy them, as they were very glad to get hold of good horses. Another point to which he wished to refer was the burden borne by the cavalry and mounted infantry in the field. The weight was perfectly inconceivable. The saddles were loaded with forage, a lance, a sword, and a carbine, with perhaps five or six stone weight tacked on, so that it was almost impossible to keep the saddle in the middle. The consequence was that the horses suffered severely from sore back, and were then absolutely useless for all practical purposes in the field. He saw no reason why the mounted troops should not have a certain number of light squadron carts, with, say, four horses apiece, which should follow at a distance and come up to the camp at night. These carts could carry the forage, tools, rugs, blankets, and so on, that were not immediately required by the men. The advantage of such a scheme would be that immediately a horse began to get a sore back it could be changed for one of the leaders in the cart, and, by being relieved of the saddle, it would be able to keep up with the regiment, so that the necessity of leaving it on the veldt, as so many hundreds and thousands had had to be left, would be avoided. The hon. Member was proceeding to refer to the proposed extension of the system of registration, when

*THE CHAIRMAN ruled that that question did not come within the Vote under discussion.

MR. COCHRANE said that on the proper occasion he would refer in a friendly manner to that subject.

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.) looked upon the question of the proper supply of horses as one of the greatest importance. The registration system was one of the very best methods that could be adopted, and if a system could be devised by which the British Government might have a claim upon colonial horses——

*THE CHAIRMAN reminded the hon. Member that the Committee were discussing a Supplementary Estimate for horses in respect of the war in South Africa. The general question of horses, registration, and so forth, was not open for discussion.

COLONEL NOLAN pointed out that Vote 6, Item D, included the registration of horses. Would not the discussion of the question therefore be in order?

*THE CHAIRMAN: If the Minister in charge of the Vote said that any of this money has been paid in respect of registration of horses the hon. Member would be right. But I understand that that is not so. The money is asked for in respect of the purchase of horses which have been or will be sent to South Africa before the end of the financial year.

CAPTAIN NORTON, passing from the registration to the transport of horses, said that the case of the 9th Hussars was but one isolated instance. There were at least half-a-dozen ships which sailed from various ports taking horses to South Africa in regard to which the same point arose. In many cases the enormous loss of horseflesh was due almost entirely to bad fittings. The ships had been fitted under the supervision of officers who were not experts in reference to that particular duty. In some cases ships sailed without veterinary surgeons of experience on board, and horses bought abroad were brought down to the ship-side absolutely raw and unprepared for the voyage. Where duly qualified veterinary surgeons were on board they were practically under the orders of officers—some of them Militia, and most of them infantry officers—who had no knowledge whatever as regarded the shipping of horses. The Army Veterinary Department had never received fair treatment at the hands of the authorities. At the time when the war broke out there were twelve vacancies, but only one member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons presented himself for examination. The main reason for that state of things was that, as in the case of the Army Medical Department, the views of the profession had not been attended to. The Army was consequently tabooed by the schools, and the best men were not forthcoming. The department was so framed and constituted that there was no arrangement for extension in the case of war. As nine-tenths of the British campaigns were carried on in countries more or less uncivilised, where if there was railway transport at all it was very limited, there was no army in the world which needed to be better provided for an extension of its veterinary department than the British. The difficulties of supplying an army in the field with only one line of railway were prodigious, as, to a great extent, wheeled transport and pack animals had to be relied upon. The horses, mules, and oxen necessary for that purpose, of course, required veterinary treatment just as much as the cavalry and artillery horses. A large number of veterinary surgeons had to be employed; but was it to be supposed for one moment, seeing the great rise which had taken place in the social status and position of veterinary surgeons to-day as compared with a few years ago, that men would leave good practices to enter the Army for temporary employment under the conditions obtaining at present? Of course they would not. Large numbers of the men who were employed had proved absolute failures, as they had no knowledge whatever of the duties they were supposed to perform. Considerable responsibility rested upon the War Office authorities for not having established prior to the war some system whereby they could lay their hands upon, at any rate, a limited number of properly qualified veterinary surgeons of a certain standing.

*THE CHAIRMAN: I must remind the hon. Member that there is no money asked for in regard to veterinary surgeons.

CAPTAIN NORTON pointed out that he was endeavouring to show that the loss of horseflesh was mainly due to the fact that the horses had not been properly taken care of. When they arrived in South Africa, instead of being prepared for transport by rail, they were sent under incompetent persons to the various depôts up-country. They were put in charge of men from various cavalry regiments whose commanding officers had found them to be practically useless, as it stood to reason that no colonel commanding a mounted corps would send his best men to the depôt to take care of horses. There was a sort of dual responsibility between the military and the veterinary officers in charge of the depôt. Such a system was bound to do badly, and as a result at two crises of the war operations were delayed in consequence of the dearth of horses. Had a proper supply of horses been forthcoming many men who had lost their lives in South Africa would have been alive to-day. After the battles of Graspan, Modder River, and others, the general officer in command was unable to take military advantage of the success he had gained, because he had no cavalry either to turn the flanks of the enemy or to pursue the foe when they were in retreat. Another point in connection with this matter was the effect which the large number of horses, mules, and oxen dying on the march or in crossing the various rivers had upon the health of the troops. Probably a great deal of the enteric fever was caused by the contamination of the water supplies by the bodies of these animals. With regard to the large number of Argentine horses which had been purchased, it was known that hardened horses were not to be found in the Argentine Republic. They were bought there in a green state, and surely that was not the field to which the War Office should have gone. Others were bought in Hungary, where it was understood £7 or £8 per head was paid by the dealers through whom they were bought, but the British Government had to pay something nearer £40. He admitted there were great difficulties in buying horses in a foreign country, but surely a great and wealthy country like England could lay its hands upon a certain number of men with the necessary qualifications to buy horses in Hungary. The question of the weight carried by the horses was one of considerable importance. Members who were old cavalry officers had called attention to this matter over and over again. It was said that the British cavalry as mounted men were equally as good as the Boers, and yet the Boers with smaller horses were able to walk round the British troops. It stood to reason that the tremendous weight carried by the horse must tell in a long march. Moreover, the average British cavalry soldier took practically no interest in his horse in the matter of sore back, and a horse after two or three days sore back became absolutely useless. In South Africa no depôts were provided for these horses with sore backs, and they were ridden until they were practically useless, and then they had to be despatched. Had those horses been sent to proper depôts they would have, in four or five weeks time, been not only equally good but far better than the new arrivals. His belief was that at the root of all these evils lay the want of proper organisation of the Army Veterinary Department. It was impossible all at once to extend a department to do ten times the work expected of it under ordinary circumstances, and he hoped that under the scheme foreshadowed in the able speech of the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary of State for War—upon which he heartily congratulated him—he would not forget this great necessity in the Army Veterinary Department.

MR. RATCLIFF (Staffordshire, Burton) said that something had been stated about buying horses in the Argentine and in Ireland. He thought it was wise to buy horses at the present time on the other side of the equator. Horses had to change their coats at certain times of the year according to the season, and it stood to reason that horses bought in Ireland and taken over to the other side of the equator would have to undergo a change of climate which would be very trying to them. Therefore, he thought the Government were wise in purchasing horses on the other side of the equator. He was not arguing in favour of Argentine horses, but he thought horses could be bought, probably in Australia or elsewhere, which would serve the Army better than the horses bought in Ireland.

*Sir WALTER FOSTER (Derbyshire, Ilkeston) said he had been induced to make one or two observations in consequence of what he had been told went on in South Africa by an old friend of his who had been out there, and had witnessed the excessive waste of horseflesh which had occurred during the campaign. That waste meant a terrible loss of money to the taxpayers, and he could not help thinking that in this respect the forces had suffered from a want of organisation just as they had suffered from this cause in reference to the spread of disease in the Army. At a late period of the war, horses were shipped in large numbers under great difficulties, and with some defects in the transport arrangements. Those who were not military men or veterinary surgeons knew that horses brought over a long sea voyage always required a certain amount of rest before they were put to work. He was assured on good authority that when the horses came to be landed at Cape Town no preparations were made for giving them a short period of rest, and although they were suffering from all the ills of the voyage, made very often in ships inadequately fitted, they were entrained at once and sent up country to the depôt. Even when they arrived there they did not receive that period of rest which was absolutely necessary in order to fit them for the hard service of the campaign. Horses required proper and considerate treatment, but they never received such treatment, and they were put to carry those enormous weights referred to in the debate in that bad condition. How could such horses, carrying from twenty to twenty-one stone, be expected to compete with the Boers, who were mounted on hardy ponies, carrying perhaps from 20 to 25 per cent. less weight. In all those matters of rapid movement on horseback no one knew better than the noble Lord that weight told more than anything else. They could not get pace if they did not look after the weight, and a weight-carrying horse, however good he might be, had no chance against an inferior horse if he had two stone more to carry. Not only had they been carrying on a wasteful and almost indefensible policy in regard to the treatment of horses, but they had not been giving the men such a number of remounts as would enable them effectively to bring the war to an end. On the ground of humanity alone, and out of regard for the dumb creation, better care ought to have been taken of those unfortunate horses. Hundreds of horses had dropped down on the roadside in consequence of the labour put upon them when they were not in a condition to do it. The horses had died in thousands, and he should like to hear from the noble Lord the exact mortality among the horses. Those horses which had died on the roadside had been a source of great danger to the troops themselves. Their carcasses had been left there rotting in the sun, and often polluting the water supply, and if this had not produced enteric fever, it had contributed largely to that other disease known as dysentery, which had affected their troops in South Africa, and which had done so much to swell the list of deaths from disease. On these grounds he thought they ought to press this matter upon the attention of the noble Lord and the right hon. Gentleman his colleague opposite, in order that the great waste of horseflesh might be avoided in the future.

Lord STANLEY: Perhaps I may be allowed to intervene at this stage in order to answer a few of the questions which have been raised. I can assure this Committee that the War Office authorities have not the slightest intention of covering up any shortcomings. One question put to me had reference to the purchase of Basuto and Cape ponies. I may say that we got every Basuto pony that it was possible to get, but our Commissioner found that there was not a great disposition to sell. I should like to point out that a large portion of this Vote which we are taking to-night is for horses and Cape ponies purchased in those districts which have come under martial law, and in consequence we have been able to obtain them. We sent out buyers to purchase not only Basuto ponies, but also Cape ponies, and they had obtained as many as they possibly could. Two or three hon. Members have spoken with reference to the future purchasing of horses for the Army, and I confess that I am entirely in accord with those who would wish us as far as possible to buy from our own breeders, and thus give them an inducement to produce a class of horse that will be useful to us in the future. I am not sure that I should confine this to trying to produce cavalry horses in this country, but I should try and extend it by having large stud farms in Canada and South Africa.

SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT: And Australia.

LORD STANLEY: Australia is slightly different, because that is a country from which we draw upon so much for horses for the Indian Army, and we do not wish to interfere with that supply which must be kept up for India. Cape Colony and Canada seem to me to be suitable places where we might be able to establish some system of breeding horses. As far as Canada is concerned, I know it is open to the objection that in the winter it is impossible to send horses produced there into the warmer climates. I think, however, in South Africa it would be perfectly possible to do something in this direction very successfully, and I hope when the war ceases we shall be able to start some system of this kind. There is another system which has been mentioned, which personally I am very much in favour of, and that is whether we could not, by providing for the tenant farmers in this country and in Ireland a good class of mare and using sound stallions, obtain a lien on the produce. I know there are a great many difficulties in the way of carrying this out, but they might possibly be overcome. Upon the question of the general buying of horses there have been endless difficulties. I do not think that there is a single Englishman or Irishman who does not, in the first place, think he is the only man who knows how to buy a horse, and he thinks he can readily convince anybody else who is selling you a horse that he is really doing you, and that he could get you a better horse for the same money. I do not think that we can say a word against those persons who have been sent to buy our horses, for they have done their best. They have had very hard work to do, and, although they have had some failures, I cannot help thinking that the majority of horses they have purchased have not been of such a very bad class as some hon. Members would have us believe.

With regard to the purchasing of horses at the present moment, my hon. and gallant friend may be pleased to hear that orders have been given for the purchase of 1,000 horses and cobs in Ireland, and we have also given directions that our dealers in Ireland and in England shall put themselves more in touch with the breeders of those horses than with the dealers. If gentlemen of influence in the various localities would assist our buyers in any way it would lead to better results. I think hon. Members who understand anything about buying horses will certainly bear me out when I say that the amount of rubbish brought forward for artillery and cavalry purposes is extraordinary, and disapproval of these animals is very often expressed in very strong language. Two or three hon. Members have referred to the question of the weight carried by our horses in in South Africa. I do not think anybody could have been out there without being impressed with the enormous amount of weight that we have to put on the backs of our horses and men to send them out in an efficient state even for a three days march. That, of course, is one of the questions which will have to be dealt with, but it is hardly my place to express an opinion upon such a subject. I think it is one of those questions which can safely be left to those officers who have had the most experience in those matters, and it must be left entirely in the hands of the military authorities to make suggestions.

My hon. friend the Member for West Newington spoke about the Veterinary Department, and I think that is one of the very few omissions which one can point to in the statement of my right hon. friend the Secretary of State for War to-day. But though he omitted it in his speech, I may say he has not omitted it in his consideration, and an attempt is being made to put the Army Veterinary Department on a much more substantial basis than it has ever been before, and by the better terms which we propose to offer I think we shall be able to get a better class of veterinary surgeons than we have had during the present war. At the same time, it is obvious that it is perfectly impossible to have in permanent employment in the Army the number of veterinary surgeons required in time of war, and if we can come to some arrangement in regard to veterinary officers similar to that which we have arranged in regard to the horses, I hope that will be a step in the direction in any future war of saving our horses. The hon. and gallant Member was wrong when he said that we had no sick establishments for the horses. I know there was one at Bloemfontein, at Fisher's Farm, and there must have been something like 300 or 400 horses under treatment there. There was another such establishment at Pretoria, and there was also another in Natal.

AN HON. MEMBER: There was also one on the Orange River.

LORD STANLEY: I was not aware of that. It is very easy for hon. Members to talk about collecting sick horses and placing them in the depôt. When a regiment was on the march there may have been cases where perhaps horses might have been saved by sending them to these depôts, but owing sometimes to the circumstances of the case and the distance you are from the main line, you are obliged to put the finishing touch to the horse by riding him on an extra day. Hon. Members must not judge in this respect simply by what they hear, and I would suggest that they might accept the verdict of some of those officers who saw these things and who are convinced that as much was done in that direction as is possible. With regard to giving the horses on their arrival at Cape Town a period of rest, there were many difficulties in the way. In the first place it was difficult to get a good camp for them, and it must also be remembered that what we wanted was a horse fit to take the field at the point of distribution. If you brought a horse to Cape Town and got him fit there, if you had then to put him in a truck for eight days, where he would not be regularly fed owing to the great difficulties in the way of carrying this out, when you came to take him out you can readily imagine that a great deal of the condition put on at Cape Town must go off before you get him to the district where he was wanted. The ideal treatment would have been to have taken all the horses to the distributing place and got them into condition there. That would have meant, however, an enormous expenditure of forage, which it was altogether impossible to give. It was as much as could be done to feed the few horses that we had got there, without having to supply some thousands of them while they were getting fit. With regard to the horses we are sending out now, it should be remembered that part of this vote is for a large number of the mounted trooops which we are now sending out as reinforcements. In addition to this the Vote includes payment for all the horses and ponies that we have taken in South Africa, and, in addition, we are at the present moment providing a reserve stock to endeavour to see if we can get some condition on them at Cape Town before they are sent out to the front. I think we shall be able now to send out three thousand a month over and above the demand that has been made.

With regard to the fitting up of the ships, I have not provided myself with the figures as to how many horses have died owing to the defective fitting up of the ships. Of course it would be rather difficult to give those figures, because you must also take into account the sort of weather you had on the voyage. There are other circumstances besides defective fittings to account for the great loss of horses. When the "Suffolk" went down all the horses on board, belonging to the 10th Hussars, were lost, but when that regiment got to Cape Town the men were provided with Argentine horses, and I believe they outclassed any of the horses in the other two squadrons, so that all Argentine horses are evidently not of the same sort. All these ships are carefully examined by naval experts before the horses are sent out. There is a great difference of opinion as to how you should ship horses, but I believe that every possible care has been taken, and if this war has brought out defects, I am perfectly certain that if it requires any expenditure of money to put these matters right in the future my right hon. friend will be the last man to stand in the way of the money being spent. I do not think it will be found that these fittings have been as defective as has been made out, and I believe that the mortality on board has been more due to weather and to change of climate than to any defect in the fittings.

I think I have now dealt with all the questions put to me, and I would like to say that we are endeavouring as far as possible to carry out the promises that we made in this House with regard to the future purchase of horses. We have written to Lord Strathcona, and we are arranging for buyers to go out to Canada. We are not purchasing any more Hungarian horses, but we are purchasing another class which we are told is very useful in South Africa. With regard to England and Ireland, more buyers are being sent out, and experienced officers are visiting various districts, and we hope that in this way we shall be able to come in touch with local breeders without purchasing so exclusively from dealers as we had to do in the past.

SIR WALTER FOSTER asked whether the noble Lord could say what the mortality had been.

LORD STANLEY: I do not think I can, and I am afraid that it is impossible for anybody to say what it has been.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE said there was no doubt that the mortality amongst the horses in South Africa had been greater than in any war in history. The loss of horses after landing had been absolutely gigantic and beyond all precedent, and there had been no breakdown and no failure in the war more serious than that connected with the supply of horses, and it had had a most disastrous effect on the course of the war. Generally speaking, he found that the horses which came out with the cavalry regiments were in fairly good condition, for they had been properly looked after. The greatest loss took place in the case of the horses bought in Argentina, Australia, the United States and Canada, and in some of the Yeomanry horses purchased in England. They were landed in a very unsatisfactory manner at some of the ports, and then were put into various remount camps which were short-handed all along, though there was plenty of forage. There was not only a deficiency in the number of the men, but they were unsatisfactory. The deficiency was made up by the employment of raw Kaffirs without experience of horse tending. Then the horses were sent up to the front in that bad condition. The noble Lord had described the great difficulty that took place in their transport. In one case the horses had been no fewer than eight days in the train. The boxes became slippery—they were not very good boxes in the first place—and the horses got knocked about in every possible way. At Craddock, and perhaps at Bloemfontein, the horses were fed out of the train and proper arrangements were made by the officer commanding there. That was the one bright spot in the life of the horses. Then the trains were sent up in charge of a very short number of men. There were often 200 horses in a train, and commonly 150, and there was only one officer, one non-commissioned officer, and six soldiers—although there were a few more at the last, and some Kaffirs. As all the horses had to be fed in the train the conditions of the journey were disastrous. Then the horses were immediately sent on marches of considerable length. In one case the horses, immediately after a three or four days journey in the train, were sent a march of thirty miles, and most of them died. The loss was gigantic, and that had a most disastrous effect on the course of the war. We had had good luck in that the enemy had no cavalry. One general officer who had commanded a cavalry brigade under General French had stated publicly that the army never could have reached the Portuguese frontier if the enemy had had any cavalry. Several speakers had referred to the weight required to be carried by the horses, as though that was an explanation for the losses. Of course everybody knew that if a horse had less weight to carry he could do better; but they must remember that the success they had met with in keeping horses alive had been much less in South Africa than in the Peninsula, where very few cavalry horses had been lost. There was the great march from Salamanca to Ciudad Rodrigo, where only the artillery horses were killed and the cavalry horses were saved, although the weight carried by them was much greater than that carried now by our cavalry. In the French War of 1870 both the German and French cavalry carried more weight, and they were able to keep their horses alive, which the Germans did, but who carr'ed by one stone the heavier weight, In the march to Russia by the Grand Army the cavalry horses carried a heavier weight than ours did in South Africa. Our loss in horseflesh in South Africa had been greater than in any previous war. It was evident that the noble Lord had given his mind to this matter, and he had shown the Committee that the lessons of the war had not been lost upon him, and that everything would be done in the future to prevent a repetition of the horrible loss of horses. He was inclined to think that if at the beginning of the war precautions had been taken, a great deal of the expenditure might have been saved. He could not but fear that the great destruction in horseflesh was due to the want of training on the part of the men in horse-mastership and in generally looking after horses.

MAJOR RASCH (Essex, Chelmsford) congratulated the Secretary of State on the extremely lucid and clever speech which he had made. He regretted he was not an expert on this question, for he had not been to the front, although that was not entirely his fault. The regiment with which he had served, however, had been at the front, and he had collected from his old comrades some information which might be of some use. In the first place, they had to deplore a waste of horseflesh from bad treatment. Some of the horses were hunters which had been used to careful attention in warm stables, and yet they had been put on board cattle trucks, and sent down to Southampton for shipment without a rag of clothing. Consequently they contracted the seeds of pneumonia, which was developed during the rough passage to the Cape. Then they were put in charge of Militia officers who had never seen a horse before. It was due to the Member for North Aberdeen that so many horses arrived alive. Even after arrival they were kept three days without food. When a Cape millionaire imported horses he reckoned on their taking a year to acclimatise, but these horses were sent up to the front without even waiting forty-eight hours, and the natural consequence was that they died like flies. In one particular regiment seven times the number of horses which the regulations required passed through the ranks. The question of horse-breeding had been mentioned by the right hon. Gentleman, who could not do better than look at a letter by Sir Walter Gilbey, which appeared in *The Times* of 27th December last. In that letter allusion was made to the stud farms established in Austria in 1876. The noble Lord had said that the plan would be to get a lien on the horses in these stud farms. What was the system adopted in Austria? The farmers sent their mares to the stud farms to be served without payment, and the produce was afterwards bought at £28 for cavalry horses and £26 for draught horses. There was another interesting letter, which appeared in *The Times* on 25th December last, signed by a cavalry officer. That writer alluded particularly to the question of Hungarian horses. It seemed to him that Hungarian horses were absolutely useless. They had straight shoulders, staring coats, and the only hard thing about them was their mouths. They failed when any weight was put on them. He did not always agree with the right hon. Baronet the Member for Forest of Dean, but he did so in regard to the weight which cavalry horses had to carry. The saddles were enormous—more like the equipment of an elephant. The stirrups were as thick as two of a man's fingers, and wherever there was a bare bit of horseflesh the authorities insisted on covering it with a buckle or something. The total weight the horses were supposed to carry was nineteen stone and a half, and he had been told by some friends of his that the only way in which they could keep their horses in condition was to ride on a stripped saddle and without any weight. Of course, it was absurd to ask an eleven-stone hunter to carry nineteen stone and a half. His hon. friend the Member for King's Lynn suggested that the campaign should be carried on by cavalry only, as had been done by Alexander 2,000 years ago, each man with three spare horses. That was how it had been carried on by the Boers. If we had had more remounts we should probably have done better in the war.

Mr. J. P. FARRELL (Longford, N.) said he had listened with considerable interest to the speeches made, from the statement of the Secretary for War to that of the hon. Gentleman who had just sat down; but as an Irish Member he must say that there had been a remarkable desire exhibited to ignore the claims of Ireland to a fair share of the purchases of remounts for the cavalry in South Africa. One hon. Gentleman had gone so far as to say that Ireland as a horse-breeding country should be ignored, that no money should be spent in Ireland, but that it all should be spent in the Argentine and other countries beyond the Equator. He would like to know how much of the taxation of this country was to be borne by the people of Argentine or of Hungary, where the horses were being bought at present. The noble Lord the Financial Secretary to the War Office had outlined some plan by which the Government were going to establish stud-farms—one in Canada and one in South Africa. But the noble Lord did not outline any scheme by which the horse-breeders in this country and Ireland would receive some benefit from such a plan. Now, it was generally admitted that Ireland, of all countries in the world, was the best for the production of useful horses; and why should Ireland be given the go-by in this respect? The right hon. Gentleman had said that something like 1,000 horses or cobs were to be purchased in Ireland; but from 150,000 to 160,000 horses had been sent to South Africa, and nearly 100,000 of these had died. From time to time the gaps caused by that terrible mortality had to be filled, and he would most respectfully submit that 1,000 was not a fair proportion to obtain from Ireland. The people of Ireland were, as a whole, opposed to the war, on the grounds of policy and humanity, and so far as they were concerned it would be to their advantage, from a political point of view, if Government did not trouble them with any orders. But the unfortunate part of the arrangement between the two countries was that they were still compelled to pay a proportion of the cost of the war; and therefore as long as they had to pay this large tribute, it was but fair and just that a proportion of the horses required should be purchased in Ireland. If the whole Irish market was only to supply 1,000 horses they were not receiving that fair proportion that was their due.

Lord STANLEY: I said that there was one order for 1,000 horses, but it does not follow that that is to be the only order.

Mr. J. P. FARRELL said he accepted the statement of the noble Lord, but he wanted to allude to the way in which these particular purchases were carried out. The horse fairs in his neighbourhood were very largely supplied with serviceable and useful animals, but no representative of the War Department had ever gone over to these large horse fairs, so far as he had been able to ascertain. A military officer might attend them for the purpose of buying remounts. He thought it would be right to give encouragement to the official dealers to go to these fairs. Better still, notice might be given by advertisement that on a certain day so many horses would be examined with a view to purchase. Another question he wished to raise on this Vote of three millions was the supply of provisions, forage and transport in Ireland. Complaints had been made in the House already about the boycotting of Irish contractors to the Army. He would like to know what contracts for provisions, forage, clothing and other supplies had been given to Irish contractors. Very much feeling had been generated in Ireland on account of the great loss that accrued to the country by giving contracts to syndicates who had mainly their headquarters in London. It was not a pleasure to Irishmen to raise these points, but since England insisted on making them pay their proportion of the cost of the war, it was but fair and right that the Irish taxpayers should receive a fair share of the contracts.

*SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT said he should like to add his congratulations to the unanimous tribute which had already been offered to the Secretary of State for War upon the admirable address which he had delivered that night.

Attention called to the fact that forty Members were not present. House counted, and forty Members being present—

*SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT said it had never been his good fortune to listen to a statement more broadminded and statesmanlike than that of the Secretary for War that evening. The question of remounts was one of the most important that had arisen during the course of the present war. He was not sure whether the deficiency in the supply of horses ought not to rank as one of the foremost causes of the length, expense, and disasters of the war. In his opinion it was entitled to rank as equal to others which he would only refer to—namely, the insufficient supply of troops in South Africa before the war began, and the bad generalship which was displayed at the earlier stages of the campaign. Both of these sources of blunder were responsible for an amount of from £50,000,000 to £70,000,000. Many thousands of lives might have been saved if there had been prevision at the War Office or on the part of the military authorities as regards the quantity and quality of horses requisite for the war. It was absolutely deplorable when they thought of the waste of horses that had occurred, and what an enormous expenditure there had been in consequence of the want of prevision. He did not know what the total amount was, but taking the horses at £40 apiece, and that was probably the minimum cost, at least £6,000,000 had been spent upon horses, and if £500,000 had been spent judiciously before the war began upon the provision of a sufficient supply of horses and remounts the greater part of that money would have been saved. The country had a right to know who was responsible for this. There were three authorities that might be responsible. First of all there was the Cabinet. If the Cabinet as a whole decided that this money was not to be spent, then they were clearly responsible. On the other hand, it might be what was called the War Office that was responsible. The third authority that might be responsible were the military advisers of the Secretary of State for War and the Cabinet. He hoped that the Secretary of State for War would see that the responsibility for this frightful waste of horses and money was put on the right person. He thought the noble Lord the Member for the Westhoughton Division, who made a very interesting reply to the various criticisms which had been addressed to his Department on the subject, took rather an optimistic view of the efforts which had been made to obtain the necessary supply of horses in South Africa. Of course the noble Lord must be understood as referring to the middle stages of the war—about, say, the months of February and March last. Before the time when Lord Roberts's control came into full effect the efforts to obtain a supply of Cape horses were not exhausted. Whether they were exhausted after that date he greatly doubted, because the experience of the last few months showed that there was still a great reserve available in the north-western districts of Cape Colony, and even in some parts of the Orange River Colony, and also in Natal, and in parts of the Transvaal which were under our control. He thought something more might have been done earlier by sending some intelligent buyers into those parts. The noble Lord stated that English horses had done best during the campaign. The hon. Member supposed that was subject to the condition that they had a sufficient supply of food they could eat. The difficulty about horses foreign to South Africa was that the supply of food was so scant, so different from that to which they were accustomed at home, that they could not be nourished upon it. The advantage of having Cape horses and ponies was that they nourished themselves upon what appeared to be almost a barren country. They were placed out at night and they managed to get food where an English, Australian, or Canadian horse could not find a mouthful. Another advantage possessed by the native horses was their capacity for avoiding the numerous holes, obstacles, stones, and other troubles which, in that enormous open country, were met with in the course of the campaign. A native horse avoided a hole by instinct, whereas a foreign horse put his foot into it and broke his leg. This ought to have been perfectly well known to hundreds of officers before the war, and yet very slight effort was made to obtain these horses, which were there in thousands. He thought the amount of money spent on horses out of South Africa had been unnecessarily large. A large number of experienced buyers should have been earlier in the field. In this way a great part of the expense would have been saved. It would be very interesting to know from the War Office the comparative cost of the horses purchased in various countries, and also the cost of the transport, which was a very heavy item indeed. He doubted if it would work out at much less than £50 apiece all round. This question of horses was a remarkable illustration of the truth of the old adage that "You may spoil the ship for a ha'p'orth of tar." If we ran similar risks, in case of war with a great European Power, we might find that we had spent not only £6,000,000, the greater part of which might have been saved, and £100,000,000 on a war which might easily have been managed for £30,000,000; but, in addition to the enormous expenditure, we might find that we had suffered great national and Imperial disaster. This above all was the lesson the late expenditure on foreign horseflesh taught. It was a crime and a blunder of the worst kind ever to sacrifice in questions of war the military position to the political, as had been done in South Africa. He hoped the mistake would be never again repeated.

*THE CHAIRMAN stated that the hon. Member was digressing from the Vote before the Committee.

*SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT (continuing) said he was trying to draw a general conclusion from the extraordinary expenditure on horses in this Vote, but he would not pursue that ject further. He hoped the Government would bear in mind that great facilities and encouragement should be given to breeders in England, Ireland, and Scotland wherever good horses could be reared. He admired the ingenuity of the hon. Member who made his conscientious objections to the war tally with his desire to have larger orders for Irish horses. He quite sympathised with the hon. Member's wish in that matter. While South African horses were by far the best in their native country, they would not be suitable for a European campaign. In a country not so arid there was not the slightest doubt that English and Irish horses would be very much better. He agreed with the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Forest of Dean that too much stress was laid upon the question of the weight of our cavalry mounts. It was far more a question of nourishment. He saw General French's forces when they arrived at Kimberley, and afterwards at Paardeburg, and the condition of the horses was absolutely deplorable, not on account of the weight carried or the distance travelled, but on account of the want of food. The average Boer weighed one or two stones heavier than the British soldier, and he carried more ammunition than our soldiers. He hoped the Government would take every precaution to see that the Army did not suffer in future campaigns through want of prevision in regard to the supply of horses.

*MR. TULLY (Leitrim, S.) said the increase in the expenditure on horses during the past few years was startling. In the Estimates for 1899–1900 the total amount was £125,000; in 1900–1901 it was £2,100,000; and now, so far as he could make out, it was £5,500,000. There was an enormous difference between the first and the last-mentioned figures. The noble Lord the Under Secretary for War seemed to feel amused at that, but it was not very amusing for the taxpayers. It struck the hon. Member that to make up the difference there must have been a good deal of blundering, and perhaps plundering. He did not think all that money could have been honestly applied. He agreed with the hon. Member for the Ecclesall Division that if £500,000 had been spent earlier they would not have been asked to vote so large an amount now. It occurred to him that they had not got the proper explanation as to why so much money had been wasted on horses. It was all very well to plead the stress of the war. The stress of the war had been used to cover a good many acts which could not be very well defended in public. He heard a Liberal Member state in the House that he was in the Argentine when the Government buyers were there purchasing horses, and that the Government buyers selected the most inferior class of horses, and did not buy the ordinary class of Argentine horses. They gave the full price he supposed that was stated in the Returns sent to the War Office. It occurred to him that one reason why the Government buyers were anxious to get to the Argentine was that they could very easily buy inferior horses there and pay a nominal high price, and that this would not be detected so readily as if the transaction had been done in Ireland or England. He thought the Committee were not satisfied as to the reason for sending buyers to the Argentine while famous horse-breeding districts in Ireland were entirely neglected, and no effort made to purchase the horses that could be got there. Very many of the Argentine horses, probably three-fourths of them, were unrideable, and they were almost as vicious as the most vicious mule. It appeared to him that most of the money here asked for had been wasted. Instead of a sufficient number of horses being purchased at the beginning of the war they were sent out in driblets, with the result that they were continually being used up and more asked for. Ireland had ground for very serious complaint in the manner she had been passed over in the matter of the purchase of horses. The Government seemed to have the same animus towards Irish horses as towards Irish Members. It had been stated that one of the reasons more horses were not bought in Ireland was the attitude of the Irish people towards the policy of the Government. But the Germans were as great pro-Boers as the Irish, and yet the Government would go to Germany for bad guns, while they refused to go to Ireland for good horses. The Government buyers raked the ends of the earth for horses, but nobody went to the western parts of Ireland, where some of the best horses for this purpose were to be obtained. The destruction of a large number of horses was due to the careless handling by the mounted troops. The Boers had always been particularly careful in that respect. When the Irish Brigade arrived at Pretoria and were received by President Kruger, instead of delivering to them a speech clothed in sentimental language, the President surprised them by making a short practical speech on the necessity of taking care of their horses. If the British troops had had a homily of a similar kind probably a large portion of the waste would have been prevented.

SIR J. BLUNDELL MAPLE (Camberwell, Dulwich) said he had been asking for some time that an inquiry should be held regarding the horses bought in Austro-Hungary in the spring of last year and the winter of 1899. From letters he had seen, it appeared that the agents sent from this country bought, right and left, horses of the very worst description, and made from £10 to £15 apiece on them. He was convinced that many of the disasters in the early part of the war were entirely due to the inferior animals that were sent out. With regard to future action, the demand made by the Government was for five-year-old horses at about £25. That was an impossible price at which to rear horses in Ireland or England. The age also was much too high. Draught-horses were used by farmers when they were only two years old. If the Government intended to go in for breeding themselves, it was not necessary to have large studs all over the country. Farmers in all parts of the country could breed thoroughly good horses, but the Government must pay the price. He suggested that horses should be bought at three years of age, not to be put at once into hard, active military work, but for use in barracks, where they would walk and trot about and be well fed. They would very well carry soldiers on parade at that age, and the difference of a year or two would save nearly £20 to the farmer. In Germany one and a quarter millions of money was spent every year by the Government in rearing and improving the breed of horses, and the same system could very well be adopted in England. As one who went in very largely for breeding both thoroughbreds and draught-horses, he would be very glad to give the authorities any information he could if they would make an inquiry into these matters.

***MR. CHARLES HOBHOUSE** (Bristol, E.) said that he had recently had an opportunity of conversing with a gentleman whose experience of Basuto ponies was very great, and from him he gathered that, while at the beginning of the war a certain quantity of the ponies had been bought in Basutoland, the purchases ceased at a very early stage of the operations, and no renewed attempt had been made until quite lately, although during the whole time the Boers were taking over the frontier, without the knowledge of the authorities, large numbers of these ponies for their own use. That was an instance of a great horse supply being untapped by the British Government, while at the same time it was being largely drawn upon by the army to which they were opposed. With regard to the Cape horses, there had been a difficulty, whether well or ill founded he could not say, in procuring horses to remount the cavalry and for the purposes of transport. But that difficulty was not in consequence of there being no horses at the Cape, but because the authorities had not taken the means to procure such horses as there were. Very clear proof had been given that there were any quantity of horses in the Cape. Since the beginning of the year nearly 10,000 horses had been captured from the enemy—so far as the newspaper reports were correct—and in addition a very large number had been purchased at the Cape for the supply of the Army. Why was not that supply drawn upon last year and at the end of 1899? The Committee were told that the military authorities were not able to purchase the horses. But in a great many districts martial law had been in force, and under that martial law horses could have been obtained as they were being obtained at present. The policy of destroying farmhouses was adopted in order to reduce the enemy to submission. A very much better policy would have been to commandeer their horses, as that would not only have deprived the enemy of their mobility but would have supplied the British Army with a possibility of movement which they did not then possess. Last year a number of regiments were returned to the House as being in a state of efficiency as cavalry regiments. At the time that statement was made there was in Ireland a cavalry regiment which had a complement of nearly 700 men, but only seventeen horses. To return such a body of men as efficient was absurd.

MR. BRODRICK: When was that?

***MR. CHARLES HOBHOUSE**: The actual date was January, 1900, and the regiment was the King's Dragoon Guards.

MR. BRODRICK: At that moment they were being sent to South Africa.

***MR. CHARLES HOBHOUSE** said that his complaint was that the horses were being swept from this and other countries to the Cape, when at that very moment there were at the Cape thousands of horses now being utilised, and the interruption of the Secretary of State proved his case. It was very necessary that horses should be in a fit condition for work, but very often they were taken off the ship after a three weeks or a month's voyage and put straightaway into badly constructed horse-boxes or open cattle-trucks, exposed to all the inclemencies of the weather, taken five or eight days journey up-country, and then turned out on the veldt. To put horses to work in that soft and unfed condition did not add to the efficiency of the Army. The horses relied upon for the movement and concentration of troops were not fit to do a day's work, and in many cases they died by the score straight off. The hon. Member instanced a case where 200 or 300 horses were detrained on the way up and put into a kraal in charge of four Kaffir boys and a non-commissioned officer. It was practically impossible that under such circumstances the horses could be looked after or even fed. What was the good of concentrating all those horses at one particular spot? It would have been much better to have taken a smaller number of the horses and had them properly looked after and attended to, and sent to the front in a fit condition, even though they were a week or a fortnight later. As an old soldier he welcomed the speech of the Secretary of State. It was necessary that the responsibility for mistakes should be placed on the right shoulders, not in order to inflict punishment upon particular officers, but to deter others from committing similar errors upon subsequent occasions. Another point in connection with the money asked for was that a large amount of it had been spent on the purchase of mules. According to a Consular Report, no less than 23,000 mules were shipped to South Africa from New Orleans alone. A scheme had been foreshadowed under which horse-farms were to be established either in Canada, Australia, or elsewhere, but no provision had been made for the breeding of mules. The mule, however, was the most useful of all transport animals, and he had had experience of its great value both for riding and draught purposes. He wished to enforce upon the notice of the Secretary of State for War, seeing the climatic conditions under which the troops were often called upon to serve, the necessity of providing as great a quantity of mules as was possible. In a great many places it was almost impossible to make use of horses with advantage where it was perfectly possible to make use of mules. He hoped the Secretary of State for War would not lose sight of that matter. They had to thank him for the close attention he had given to administrative reform, and not the least of those reforms was the provision of remounts for the Army.

*MAJOR BAGOT (Westmorland, Kendal) said that probably in modern times there had never been such a great loss of horses as had occurred during the present campaign in South Africa. Undoubtedly it would have been a great advantage if they had had a large supply of horses in the country when the war began, but that was not the case. They had been compelled to buy an enormous amount of horses during an emergency. It had been suggested that the Government ought to have bought up all the horses available in Cape Colony immediately before the war, but no doubt there would have been many objections raised to the collecting of a large number of horses which the Boers would have seen could only have been got together for one particular purpose. Undoubtedly under the circumstances which occurred in the summer of 1899, whilst most delicate negotiations were going on, it would have been exceedingly difficult for the Government at that time to have set to work buying horses in South Africa. He held the opinion that the chief opposition to such a course would have come from hon. Members opposite. Horses had to be collected from all parts of the world and sent out to South Africa, and great losses had occurred. The Member for the Forest of Dean, who had given great attention to this subject, had stated that the transport arrangements were very bad, but from personal observation he was able to say that the transport arrangements were not so bad as had been alleged. They were sending out 6,000 horses a week at one time, and the arrangements for landing them were certainly not bad. Horses which had been on the sea for three weeks could not be expected to be in good condition, but it was remarkable in what good condition the horses were landed under the circumstances. He did not think there was that scarcity of men to look after them as had been complained of, for a very few men could look after a large number of horses in the enclosed camps in South Africa. The hon. Baronet opposite had mentioned Kaffirs as rather superfluous for this work, but the Kaffir who took charge of horses was, as a rule, a first-rate man, and was very often as good as half a dozen of some others. He did not think blame could be attached to the transport arrangements or to the condition of the horses before they were sent up country, but as they had to get this large number of horses at an emergency, whether fit or not, and send them straight up into the country, that undoubtedly was the cause of this extraordinary loss. The horses were in a poor condition, and it is admitted that the English horses undoubtedly stood the strain better than those horses from the

the Argentine and other places. The great mortality among the horses undoubtedly arose from the scarcity of food and the fact that it was absolutely necessary to send them up country in trains by a single line of railway before the animals had a chance of getting into condition after their voyage. As it was not possible before the war to secure the horses in South Africa, it was not fair to attribute mismanagement to the War Office or to the people who had charge of affairs in South Africa. He agreed that they ought to have bought the horses in South Africa before the war began, but, as he had stated before, there were a great many difficulties in the way, and it was not fair to attribute blame to the War Office in this respect.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.) thought the House ought to have a better explanation as to why they should be called upon at the close of the financial year to vote £2,000,000 for remounts. There was a widespread feeling in the country that there was something unpleasant about the large purchases of horses in the Argentine, and that there had been an abuse in regard to the contracts for the purpose of horses in that country. The sum required now was enormous for this one Vote, which covered transport and remounts, the net total for the present year being £19,800,000. That was an appalling sum. He noticed the other day when a question was put to the Financial Secretary to the War Office as to the price paid for horses in the Argentine, the Financial Secretary declared that it was not consistent with the interest of the public service to state the price. That was a most extraordinary thing, because the price paid there was a matter of public knowledge in the Argentine, and it could not be denied by the noble Lord that hundreds of people in the Argentine Republic knew the price paid for these horses by the British Government. Surely those who had sold the horses must know, and in the Argentine Republic the man in the street would be able to tell them what price the British Government had paid for the horses. It was a significant fact that the British House of Commons, which had to pay for these horses, were refused information as to the price. He could understand the Government taking up that position if it were possible for a moment to argue that this matter could be kept secret. It was perfectly ludicrous, for they must have bought from a large number of horse-dealers, and therefore it was an extraordinary position for the noble Lord to take up to decline to inform the British House of Commons what price had been paid. He was not a "horsey" man, but the hon. Member for South Fermanagh, who was a "horsey" man, and was one of the oldest members of the Fermanagh Hunt, had just informed him that he had a horse to dispose of, which he could confidently recommend to any officer in the British Army. Personally, he could not distinguish a horse worth £10 from one which was worth £100, and he was speaking on this subject simply from the point of view of the man in the street The sum of £19,800,000 was an appalling sum for transport and remounts. The taxpayers of the country were entitled to examine the use to which this money was put, and insist upon such information being given as would assure them that the money had been well spent. They required some better assurance that the money had not gone corruptly into the pockets of the contractors and other men who were making millions of money by transport arrangements and the purchase of stores and horses.

With regard to the question of Argentine horses, the information he had gathered from the public press had made a strong impression upon his mind that, practically speaking, the enormous number of horses brought from the Argentine Republic had been a disastrous failure, for not one in ten of those horses had been of any value whatever, and the enormous sums of money spent upon them had been absolutely thrown away. He had been reading an account of the formation of the Colenbrander Scouts Corps known as Kitchener's Fighting Scouts. What did John Colenbrander say about the horse supply a month ago? He said that he attributed the efficiency of his scouts to the fact that they were not treated like a British regiment, and that out of every twenty horses offered them they rejected nineteen. They were allowed to have the pick of the horses. If that was true, it showed a very bad state of things, and would give grounds for the belief that millions of money had been wasted in the purchase of remounts. There was one extraordinary thing which puzzled him more than anything else in this war. According to the Estimates, they had spent millions of pounds in addition to all the resources of the British Empire before the war broke out. He would very much like to find out how much the Boers had spent in remounts. He would venture to say that the Boers had not spent £200,000 during the whole course of the war in remounts, and yet they had out-distanced us all the time. The British Army had an enormous stock of horses to begin with, and they afterwards spent £8,000,000 on remounts, and now they were asked to vote £2,000,000 more. He did not suppose the Boers had spent £1,000,000 on the whole war, as against the £130,000,000 spent by us. He thought they were entitled to inquire how this had occurred. He was reading the other day with very great interest a Blue-book containing a number of despatches from British generals in South Africa which had been for a long time withheld. A portion of that Blue-book contained a lecture on geography from Lord Roberts, in which he explained certain facts which were already known to the school children in Ireland in regard to the area of the Transvaal and Cape Colony. That information was to be found in a 1s. 6d. geography, and it did not need any Blue-books to explain it. This information was set forth by Lord Roberts to account for the extraordinary difficulties that he had to encounter in endeavouring to conquer the Boer territories. Their difficulty was to find out where the Boers were. Their object was to catch the Boers if they could, and if they were on the track of De Wet, surely the largeness of the country would not allow him to get away if their horses were as good as his. He had followed the war with great interest, for he had never read of a case before where 30,000 farmers had been able to fight 200,000 soldiers. His reading of the case was that it had taken one and a half years for the British generals on the spot to learn the interesting fact that ten English soldiers were only as good as one Boer. This fact was beginning to be realised now.

He had listened to the speech of the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary of State for War with interest, but he doubted whether he would be able to carry out all the reforms to which he had referred. Lately an attempt had been made to kick all the Irish Members out of the House of Commons, and it seemed to be thought necessary that they should al be locked up in the Clock Tower. They evidently forget that the present Commander-in-Chief and the late Commander-in-Chief were both Irishmen. [AN HON. MEMBER: He is an Ulster man.] That was the hon. Member's idea of geography, but Lord Wolseley came from the county of Cork and Lord Roberts from the county of Waterford. The hon. Member's geography seemed to be rather at fault. The speech of the Secretary of State for War was a very able one, but judging from his study as an ignorant man in the street it appeared to him that the real moral of that speech was that they wanted more brain power. He had spoken of many things that were required, but what they really wanted was more brains. A system which required a man to possess an income of £500 a year before he could be a British officer was certainly not a satisfactory state of things. The real trouble seemed to him to be that they did not realise that brains were necessary in order to provide the horses. If they had had the brains at the head of affairs in South Africa they would have got the horses in time. The real trouble was that it took them a whole year before it dawned upon the minds of their British generals that they wanted two or three horses to each man in order to deal with the Boers. What astonished him throughout the whole of this discussion was that they appeared to think they had done the most extraordinary feat of arms by holding their own in South Africa for one and a half years, although their numbers were ten to one as compared with the Boers. They had sent out 270,000 men, and they thought that they had done something extraordinary. He had never been able to understand why it was that an equal force of British troops ought not to be more than a match for an equal number of Boers. It had been said that they were fighting in a large and a strange country, but that was not a very satisfying excuse.

He entirely dissociated himself from those of his colleagues who had found fault with the Government for not buying Irish horses for this war. As an Irish Nationalist Member he felt no grievance that Irish horses were not bought. He hated this war and everything connected with it, and he had no desire to sell Irish horses or anything else in order to make a profit out of it, because he believed all such profit would bring with it a curse. So strong was his objection to the war that he would rather not see an Irish horse, or Irish soldier, used in it. But he objected to the taxpayers' money being used to defray "the cost of provisions and allowances in lieu of provisions," which was one of the items in the Vote. It was notorious that the Boer army had for a whole year lived almost entirely off these provisions. What explanation was going to be offered for the strategy of British generals which resulted in provisioning the Boer army at the expense of the taxpayers of this country? As an individual taxpayer he did not profess that this was a very great grievance. He honestly confessed that he would not object to the tax if it was going to provision the Boers rather than the British Army. But the ordinary taxpayer ought to know the reason why enormous convoys and provision trains were captured every week by the Boers. Why, a quarter of this Vote was for provisioning Botha, Delarey, and De Wet. The Secretary for War ought to give some explanation of this. No doubt Lord Kitchener had been evacuating a large part of the Transvaal territory and concentrating his troops along the railway line. But why should not Lord Kitchener retire from Bloemfontein and Pretoria and come back to the Cape? [AN HON. MEMBER: Question.] That was the question, and he supported it by moving that the Vote be reduced by £1,000,000.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a reduced sum, not exceeding £2,000,000, be granted for the said Service."—(*Mr. Dillon.*)

LORD STANLEY said he did not intend to follow the hon. Member for East Mayo as to what Lord Kitchener should do. As to the question before the Committee, the money embraced in the Vote was required to pay for horses that had been taken in South Africa and which were mounted by the local levies there, and also for the mounted troops they were sending out as reinforcements, and, in addition, to provide extra horses over those required for the moment, in order to have a reserve to fall back upon. The hon. Member talked of the Argentine horses, and asked that the price paid for them should be given to the Committee. He declined to state the prices paid for Argentine horses, because so long as purchases were going on it was not in the public interest that the prices they were paying should be mentioned. Some horses had been got in Cape Colony lately from the districts where martial law had been proclaimed. There had been no attempt in any way to conceal the prices. of hon. Members who alleged that the Government had been deliberately swindled in the purchase of horses would bring forward specific instances he should be glad to go into them. He could assure the Committee that there was not the slightest wish or intention on the part of his right hon. friend the Secretary of State for War or himself to conceal any deficiencies that had arisen in this matter, and there was not one of them that would not be turned to good account, he hoped, in any future war in which they might unfortunately be engaged. An hon. Member said that they ought to encourage the breeding of English horses, and not establish stud farms in Canada and South Africa. His own idea was to distribute well-bred mares to the farmers and for the Government to get the produce for the purposes of the Army. [AN IRISH MEMBER: And Ireland?] Certainly, Ireland too. He had, he hoped, answered all the questions put to him, and he could assure the Committee once more that he had no desire to conceal anything.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee): Except the prices. How many horses were there in this purchase of remounts to the amount of two millions?

LORD STANLEY: I am not going to tell the hon. Member anything from which he can find out the prices. The remounts include, besides horses, mules and trek oxen.

MR. COURTENAY WARNER said that what they wanted was an assurance that the system under which the horses were landed at Port Elizabeth, the want of care when they were landed, and the way in which they had been sent up to the front, so that 90 per cent. of them died, would be put a stop to. It had been said that the horses had been well landed at Cape Town, but they had sure information that it was very different at Port Elizabeth; that there horses had been landed with broken legs, and that many had been put into trucks and sent up country at once, some of them remaining in the trucks for eight days without food or water.

MR. BRODRICK: I can easily give the right hon. Gentleman the assurance asked for. The whole question has been gone into most carefully, and the practice hitherto prevailing has been stopped. The horses are now being most carefully looked after.

MR. COURTENAY WARNER said that was what they had been asking for. At Cape Town, he believed, there was an immense collection of provisions and stores. Now there was a danger of the plague being carried by the stores, and that was a very serious question. He would like to have some assurance that these stores were being kept purified and not sent to the troops all over South Africa in a contaminated state. [Laughter.] It was not exactly a laughing matter; that was exactly the way in which the plague was spread.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON said that when he was putting his question to the hon. Gentleman in regard to the number of horses which were wanted he was not speaking without book. He had a letter on the subject from a gallant officer at the front, which perhaps the Committee would allow him to read. It was dated 6th January, 1901, and the officer recited a most dismal story in regard to the state of the Army, which would not be relevant to the present discussion. But in regard to the horses he used language consistent with that employed by the hon. Member below the gangway. He said—

> "We want at least another 100,000 horses, not skin or hair trunks, but horses. Up to date the consumption of horseflesh has reached the enormous total of 250,000. This includes horses presently in use. The remounts have been bad, very, and in each case wherever the War Office buys horses they buy them £10 under market price, getting a bad driving animal instead of a useful riding animal."

That letter was not addressed to him, but had been put into his hands.

LORD STANLEY said he could not give the actual number of horses required at the front at the present moment. As to price, he had always said that every one thought he could buy horses better and cheaper than the War Office. In providing horses for South Africa the War Office was not guided by private letters from one individual to another, but by the requisitions of Lord Kitchener, and every requisition Lord Kitchener made would be met to the full and, if possible, reserve kept over.

MR. LABOUCHERE (Northampton) said there was more than met the eye in regard to this matter. Perhaps if it were left to the noble Lord he might tell them all about these horses and what they cost. But the War Office sent out people to buy horses, and these people bought horses and sold them to the Government at a higher price, and thus made plenty of money. Why did not the noble Lord tell the Committee how it was that these horses, which the hon. Member declared were wretched animals, cost two millions? The other day he met a very impecunious friend of his, who came up and shook him so warmly by the hand that he was naturally under the impression his friend was going to borrow money. But he appeared to be doing well. "What are you doing," he asked his friend, who replied, smiling, "Oh, selling horses to the Government." It was very necessary that they should look into these Votes. He had heard the late Secretary for War say, in another place, that the late Commander-in-Chief was not a man of business, and the next speaker said that the late Secretary for War was not a man of business. If that was the way things were carried on why should they, in appeals to patriotism, vote two millions? He should be prepared to vote against the Government, because he had not received sufficient information from the noble Lord to enable him to say that they had only been reasonably "done" in the matter.

*MR. CHARLES HOBHOUSE asked if it was true that 24,000 mules and 43,000 horses had been shipped to South Africa from New Orleans, as stated in the British Consul's Report, at an average cost of £20 apiece?

LORD STANLEY: I am not aware of it.

MR. JOHN BURNS (Battersea) said he hoped the noble Lord would pay more attention to the stores which were being returned from South Africa. Several sanitary authorities in Great Britain and Ireland had recently had cause to suspect a number of ships from South Africa in connection with the plague, and at this moment he believed the Local Government Board was arranging a conference between the Metropolitan Asylums Board and the London County Council, in order to spend a large sum of money to meet any emergency. But apart from the Army, if they got even a suspicion of plague in the Port of London—if there were only four or five cases well established—the damage that that would do to English trade in a month or two might amount to four or five millions of money in solid cash. He appealed, therefore, to the noble Lord to pay every attention to the stopping of the importation of infected stores which, after having been condemned at the Cape, were brought back to this country to be sold again and redistributed in this country. If he would do this he would not only save the Army a good deal of trouble, but he would also prevent a panic in London.

LORD STANLEY: I quite sympathise with what has been said by the hon. Member for Battersea, and anything that I can possibly do in the matter shall be done. I believe the sanitary authorities at Cape Town are taking every step in their power to prevent any means of contagion; but if it is wished, I am sure my right hon. friend will wire special instructions to the military authorities to take every precaution in conjunction with the sanitary authorities.

MR. JOHN BURNS: In regard to returned stores?

LORD STANLEY: Yes, with regard to that question as well.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 41; Noes, 185. (Division List No. 50.)

AYES.

Ambrose, Robert
Boland, John
Burns, John
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Delany, William
Dillon, John
Duffy, William J.
Farrell, James Patrick
Flynn, James Christopher
Hammond, John
Hardie,J.Keir(MerthyrTydvil
Hayden. John Patrick
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Chas. H.
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Patrick James
Labouchere, Henry
M'Dermott, Patrick
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan,Col.Jn. P. (Galway,N.)
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien,Kendal(Tipper'ryMid
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly,James(Roscommon,N
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Reddy, M.
Redmond, JohnE.(Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roche, John
Sullivan, Donal
Tully, Jasper

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Patrick O'Brien and Mr. Haviland-Burke.

NOES.

Acland-Hood,Capt.SirAlex.F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allen, C. P. (Glouc., Stroud)
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Akinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot,Capt.Josceline FitzRoy
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balfour, Rt.Hn.A.J.(Manch'r
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G.W.(Leeds)
Beach,Rt.Hn.SirM.H.(Bristol
Bigwood, James
Black, Alexander William
Bond, Edward
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bullard, Sir Harry
Butcher, John George
Caldwell, James
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carlile, William Walter
Causton, Richard Knight
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish,VCW (Derbyshire)
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain,Rt.Hon.J.(Birm.
Chamberlain,J.Austen(Worc'r
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H.A.E.
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb,SirJohnCharlesReady
Colston, Chas. Edw. H.Athole
Colville, John
Cook, Frederick Lucas
Corbett, A.Cameron(Glasgow)
Craig, Robert Hunter
Cranborne, Viscount
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies,M.Vaughan-(Cardigan
Dewar, JohnA.(Inverness-sh.)
Dewar,T.R.(T'rH'mlets,SGeo.
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dimsdale, Sir Joseph Cockfield
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Edwards, Frank
Fellowes,Hon.Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson,RtHn.SirJ.(Manc'r
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes

Fitzroy, Hon. Edward Algernon
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fuller, J. M. F.
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hn. Vicary (St. Albans)
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert J.
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, Hn. J. E (Elgin & Nairn)
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Green, Walford D (Wednesbury
Greene, Sir E W (B'ry S Edm'nds
Griffith, Ellis J.
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Haldane, Richard Burdon
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G. (Mid'x
Hamilton, Marq. of (L'nd'derry
Hardy, Laurence (K'nt, Ashford
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Hayter, Rt. Hn. Sir A. D.
Heath, A. Howard (Hanley)
Heath, James (Stafford, N. W.)
Helder, Augustus
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Alexander
Hermon-Hodge, Robt. Trotter
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (Bristol, E.)
Hope, J. F (Sheffield, Brightside
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Howard, Capt. J (Kent, Faversh
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
Kearley, Hudson E.
Lawson, John Grant
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lee, Capt. A H (Hants. Fareham
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Levy, Maurice
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowther, C. (Cumbr, Eskdale)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Crae, George
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Maxwell, W J H (Dumfriesshire
Milner, Rt Hon. Sir Fred. G.
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford
Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Rt. Hn A Graham (Bute
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Paulton, James Mellor
Peel, Hn. Wm Robert Wellesley
Pemberton, John S. G.
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Pretyman, Ernest George
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Remnant, James Farquharson
Rentoul, James Alexander
Renwick, George
Richards, Henry Charles
Ridley, Hn M. W. (Staleybridge
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas Thomson
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Seton-Karr, Henry
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East
Smith, James P. (Lanarks.)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stroyan, John
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Webb, Col. William George
Weir, James Galloway
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.)
Wilson, F. W. (Norfolk, Mid.)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N)
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

Original Question again proposed.

MR. DILLON said it appeared to him that this Vote had been fully and fairly discussed, and he did not wish to prolong the discussion any further. He had, however, made up his mind that he would allow no Vote in support of this war to pass without a challenge. He thought, therefore, that they might now proceed to the division on the whole Vote.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 184; Noes, 38. (Division List No. 51.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir A. F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allen, Chas. P. (Glouc, Stroud
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W (Leeds
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol
Bell, Richard
Bigwood, James
Black, Alexander, William
Bond, Edward
Brand, Hon. Arthur G.
Brodrick, Rt. Hn. St. John
Bullard, Sir Harry
Butcher, John George
Caldwell, James
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carlile, William Walter
Causton, Richard Knight
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, V. C. W (Derbyshire
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.
Chamberlain, J Austen (Worc'r
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Cook, Frederick Lucas
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Craig, Robert Hunter
Cranborne, Viscount
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dewar, T R (T'r H'mlets, S. Geo.
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dimsdale, Sir Joseph Cockfield
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dorington, Sir John Edward
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Edwards, Frank

Fellowes,Hon.AilwynEdward
Fergusson, RtHnSirJ.(Manc'r
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fitzroy,HonEdwardAlgernon
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fuller, J. M. F.
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hn. Vicary (St. Albans
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herb. John
Godson,SirAugustusFrederick
Gordon,Hn.J.E.(Elgin&Nairn
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)
Gorst, Rt. Hn. Sir John Eldon
Green,WalfordD.(Wednesb'ry
Greene, SirE.W.(B'ySEdm'ds.
Griffith, Ellis J.
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hamilton,RtHonLd.G(Midd'x
Hamilton,Marq.of(L'donderry
Hardy,Laurence (Kent,Ashf'd
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
Hayter, Rt.Hon.SirArthur D.
Heath, ArthurHoward(Hanl'y
Heath, James(Staffords. N. W.
Helder, Augustus
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Alexander
Hermon-Hodge,RobertTrotter
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hope, J. F.(Shef'ld,Brightside
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Howard,Capt.J(Kent,Faversh
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Lawrence, William F.
Lawson, John Grant
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lee,Cap.A.H.(Hants.Fareh'm
Leese,SirJosephF.(Accrington
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leveson-Gower, FrederickN.S
Levy, Maurice
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long,Rt Hn.Walter(Bristol,S)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas,Col. Francis(Lowestoft)
Lucas,ReginaldJ(Portsmouth)
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Calmont,Col.J.(Antrim,E.)
M'Crae, George
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Maxwell.WJH(Dumfriesshire
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
More, R. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow)
Morgan,J.Lloyd(Carmarthen)
Morris, Hn. Martin Henry F.
Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
Morton,Edw.J.C.(Devonport)
Murray,RtHnAGraham (Bute
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Paulton, James Mellor
Peel,HnWmRobert Wellesley
Pemberton, John S. G.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Remnant, James Farquharson
Rentoul, James Alexander
Renwick, George
Richards, Henry Charles
Ridley,Hn.M.W.(Stalybridge
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Charles T.
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Seton-Karr, Henry
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick, B.)
Sinclair, Capt.John (Forfarsh.
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith,Abel H.(Hertford,East)
Smith, James P. (Lanarks.)
Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (Strand)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stroyan, John
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Tabot,Rt.Hn.J.G.(Oxf'dUniv.
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E.
Warner,Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason,JohnCathcart(Orkney
Webb, Colonel Wm. George
Weir, James Galloway
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson,A.Stanley(York,E.R.)
Wilson,FredW.(Norfolk,Mid.
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcester,N.)
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Commander(Berks,E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Ambrose, Robert
Boland, John
Burns, John
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Delany, William
Dillon, John
Duffy, William J.
Farrell, James Patrick
Flynn, James Christopher
Hammond, John
Hardie,J.Keir(MerthyrTydvil
Hayden, John Patrick
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Patrick James
M'Dermott, Patrick
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, Kendal(Tipper'y,Mid
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, J. (Roscommon, N.)
O'Malley, William
O Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Reddy, M.
Redmond, J. E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roche, John
Sullivan, Donal
Tully, Jasper

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. Patrick O'Brien and
Mr. Haviland-Burke.

2. £100, Supplementary, Ordnance Factories.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I think it would be extremely convenient if the House would at once grant us this Vote, and if this course is agreed to I will then move the adjournment of the House. Some of us, at all events, have earned a good night's rest.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolutions to be reported upon Monday next; Committee to sit again upon Monday next.

Motion made, and Question, "That this House do now adjourn"—(*Mr. Balfour*)—put, and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at half after Eleven of the clock till Monday next.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Monday, 11*th March*, 1901.

LORD HENLEY.

Petition of Frederic Henley, Baron Henley of Chardstock, in the Peerage of Ireland, claiming a right to vote at the elections of Representative Peers for Ireland; read, and referred to the Lord Chancellor to consider and report thereupon to the House.

TOOK THE OATH.

The Lord Gerard took the Oath.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with:—

Brompton and Piccadilly Circus Railway [H.L.].

The same were ordered to lie on the Table.

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE.

Report from, That the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the

Cambrian Railways Bill

ought to be dispensed with.

That the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the

South Yorkshire Electric Power Bill

ought to be dispensed with, provided that the proposed exemption of the undertaking from the provisions of Section 81 of the Electric Lighting (Clauses) Act, 1899, be struck out of the Bill.

Read, and agreed to.

HARROGATE WATER BILL [H.L.].

A petition of Messrs. Sharpe, Parker, Pritchards, Barham, and Lawford, of 9, Bridge Street, Westminster, parliamentary agents, praying for leave to present a petition of Leeds Corporation, praying to be heard by counsel against the Bill, although the time limited by Standing Order No. 92 for presenting such petition has expired; read, and ordered to lie on the Table; and Standing Order No. 92 to be considered To-morrow, in order to its being dispensed with in respect of the said petition.

OTLEY GAS BILL [H.L.].

COWES FERRY BILL [H.L.].

HARROGATE CORPORATION BILL [H.L.].

MERSEY DOCKS AND HARBOUR BOARD (CANADA DOCK WORKS, ETC.) BILL [H.L.].

SUTTON-IN-ASHFIELD URBAN DISTRICT (WATER) BILL [H.L.].

TYNESIDE TRAMWAYS AND TRAMROADS BILL.

CHESTER CORPORATION TRAMWAYS BILL [H.L.].

ALFRETON GAS BILL [H.L.].

CHARING CROSS, EUSTON, AND HAMPSTEAD RAILWAY (No. 1.) BILL [H.L.].

CHARING CROSS, EUSTON, AND HAMPSTEAD RAILWAY (No. 2.) BILL [H.L.].

EASTON AND CHURCH HOPE RAILWAY BILL [H.L.].

LYNTON AND BARNSTAPLE RAILWAY BILL [H.L.].

BROMPTON AND PICCADILLY CIRCUS RAILWAY BILL [H.L.].

SOUTH WESTERN AND ISLE OF WIGHT JUNCTION RAILWAY BILL [H.L.].

DOVER GAS BILL [H.L.].

BIRMINGHAM (CITY) TRAMWAYS BILL [H.L.].

WIGAN CORPORATION TRAMWAYS, ETC., BILL [H.L.].

Read 2^a

DONCASTER TITHE TRUST BILL [H.L.].

Read 2^a (according to Order).

PORTMADOC, BEDDGELERT, AND SOUTH SNOWDON RAILWAY BILL [H.L.].

STRATTON AND BUDE GAS BILL [H.L.].

Committed; the Committees to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND).

Code of Regulations for Day Schools, 1901.

NAVY (WATER-TUBE BOILERS).

Interim Report of the Committee appointed by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to consider certain questions respecting modern types of boilers for naval purposes.

EXPLOSIVES (EXPLOSION AT MESSRS. CURTIS AND HARVEY'S FACTORY AT TRIMLEY MARSH, SUFFOLK.

Report to the Secretary of State for the Home Department, by Captain M. B. Lloyd, His Majesty's Inspector of Explosives, on the circumstances attending explosions which occurred in the mixing house and stove at the factory of Messrs. Curtis and Harvey, Limited, at Trimley Marsh, Suffolk, on the 28th November, 1900.

ARMY (YEOMANRY CAVALRY).

Training Return for 1900.

PATENTS ACTS.

Report of the Committee appointed by the Board of Trade to inquire into the working of the Patents Acts on certain specified questions.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

LUNACY.

Return of all sums received by the Visitors of Lunatics for travelling expenses or upon any other account from the 1st January to the 31st December, 1900.

POLLING DISTRICTS (COUNTY BOROUGH OF BRIGHTON).

Orders made by the Council of the County Borough of Brighton on 4th June, 1896, 19th January, 1899, and 21st January, 1901, altering certain polling districts in the borough.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—HOSPITAL TENTS AND WAGONS.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: Perhaps the noble Lord the Under Secretary of State for War can now give me the result of his inquiries with regard to the despatch of tents and ambulance wagons to South Africa.

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Lord RAGLAN): My Lords, the Hospitals Commission, as your Lordships will remember, mentioned favourably only the tortoise tents, tents of the Indian pattern, and ordinary Ordnance Store pattern; 429 of these latter have been sent to South Africa, of which 153 have been despatched since 1st December last; 1,210 Indian pattern tents have been already sent, and 1,000 more have been ordered from India. No tortoise tents have been sent out lately. I think I explained in my speech that this pattern has not realised the expectations at first formed in regard to it. As to wagons, eighty-five of a new pattern were sent out early last year, and thirty wagons which are considered superior to the Ordnance Store pattern have been built by the Ordnance Store Department at Pietermaritzburg, but no new pattern wagons have been sent out from here since the issue of the Report.

LORD WOLSELEY'S MEMORANDUM TO LORD SALISBURY.

THE EARL OF NORTHBROOK: I wish to put a question to the noble Marquess the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of which I have given him private notice—namely, whether he is prepared to lay upon the Table of the House the Minute written by the late Commander-in-Chief of the Army which he quoted in his speech on Monday last.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (The Marquess of LANSDOWNE): The Paper will, I understand, be presented by the War Office. I only received notice a few minutes ago that the noble Earl would ask this question, and I therefore have not been able to ascertain when it will be presented. But the Paper is in existence, and I imagine it will be presented forthwith.

NEW BILLS.

COUNTY COURTS (IRELAND) BILL [H.L.].

A Bill to amend the law relating to county courts in Ireland—was presented by the Lord Ashbourne; read 1^a; to be printed; and to be read 2^a on Friday next. (No. 17.)

OATH AGAINST ROMAN CATHOLIC DOCTRINES REPEAL BILL [H.L.].

A Bill to repeal the Oath against Roman Catholic doctrines—was presented by the Lord Braye; read 1^a; and to be printed. (No. 18.)

SHOPS (EARLY CLOSING) BILL [H.L.].

A Bill to provide for the earlier closing of shops—was presented by the Lord Avebury; read 1^a; and to be printed. (No. 19.)

MESSAGE FROM THE KING.

His Majesty's message considered (according to Order). Then it was moved that an humble address be presented to His Majesty to return to His Majesty the thanks of this House for His most gracious message, and to assure His Majesty that this House will immediately proceed to the consideration thereof in such a manner as shall demonstrate their zeal, duty, and affectionate attachment to His Majesty, and a due regard to the rank and dignity of the Queen and the Royal Family (The Lord Privy Seal (*M. Salisbury*); the same was agreed to *nemine dissentiente;* the said Address to be presented to His Majesty by the Lords with white staves.

CREMATION BILL [H.L.].

House in Committee (according to Order). Bill reported without amendment.

LORD MONKSWELL: This Bill is word for word the same as that which passed through your Lordships' House last year. On that occasion it went to the Standing Committee and was very carefully considered. I do not think it will be necessary, therefore, that it should go to the Standing Committee again.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR (The Earl of HALSBURY): If the Bill, as the noble Lord says, is word for word the same as that which was examined by the Standing Committee last year, I agree that it is quite unnecessary that it should go to the Standing Committee again.

Standing Committee negatived; Bill to be read 3^a To-morrow.

PRIVATE LEGISLATION PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1899.

Report from the Committee of Selection, That the following Lords be proposed to the House as the panel of Lords to act as Commissioners under the Act, viz.:—

E. Mansfield.
E. Camperdown.
L. Clifford of Chudleigh.
L. Torphichen.
L. Belhaven and Stenton.
L. Fairlie (*E. Glasgow*).

The said Report to be considered To-morrow.

House adjourned at twenty minutes before Five of the clock, till To-morrow, half-past Ten of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, 11*th March*, 1901.

One other Member took and subscribed the Oath.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

SWANSEA HARBOUR BILL. (BY ORDER.)

Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

MR. CHARLES M'ARTHUR (Liverpool, Exchange), who had given notice of a motion for the rejection of the measure, said he had no desire to place obstacles in the way of the construction of the new dock and other improvements at Swansea which were contemplated by the Bill, nor did he and those who were acting with him intend to interfere with the discretion of the Swansea Harbour trustees to charge what rates they thought fit on shipping entering that port; but what they did say was that those rates ought to be charged on the legal tonnage of the ships, and not upon the arbitrary tonnage basis proposed in the Bill. This endeavour to substitute an arbitrary tonnage basis for the tonnage basis laid down by the Merchant Shipping Act was an endeavour to interfere with a public Act by means of a private Bill, and was opposed to public policy. Every British ship had to be measured under the Merchant Shipping Act, and her tonnage had to be ascertained in accordance with a system of measurement laid down by that Act. When the tonnage of the ship had been thus ascertained it was cut into the ship's beam, and that then became for all purposes the tonnage of the ship. That tonnage was the tonnage on which rates had to be charged, and in point of fact this system was uniform all through the country with one or two exceptions. In all ports, with one or two exceptions, where the tonnage dues were charged they were charged on the legal tonnage of the ship. This Bill proposed to establish a new system of tonnage. It proposed that in the case of steam vessels other than steam tugs the net registered tonnage on which dues should be charged should in no case be less than 50 per cent. of the gross tonnage, and that in the case of tugs the net registered tonnage should in no case be less than 18 per cent. of the gross tonnage. If Swansea were to have this power of making her own tonnage basis the same liberty would have to be conceded to other ports, and the uniformity established by the Merchant Shipping Act would be destroyed, and a state of chaos would be brought about. There was an additional advantage of the present system, inasmuch as when the British system of measurement was adopted by foreign countries the tonnage of the ship ascertained in the foreign country was her tonnage for all purposes in Great Britain. He did not see why a provision of that kind should be overridden by the proposals of a private Bill. He thought the reason on the part of the Swansea trustees for asking for this power was that there were some vessels which were so constructed that they obtained a net registered tonnage much less than they ought to have, and on that account it was desired to correct the anomaly by means of this proposal. But if it was desired to correct an anomaly arising out of the general law it should be done by an amendment of the general law, or by an alteration in the instructions given by the Board of Trade to their surveyors. He understood that the Board of Trade had this very matter under their consideration at the present time, and if that were so, surely it was a very inopportune time for any particular port to rectify the matter by means of a private Bill. He would remind the House that in 1899 a Bill was brought before the House of Lords in which this proposal was contained in reference to Bristol and other ports, and when the matter was brought under the notice of Lord Morley, as Chairman of Committees, he said it was not one that ought to be proposed in a private Bill, and the Bill was withdrawn. He did not wish that this Bill should be withdrawn, for it contained many very useful and beneficial matters, but he hoped the promoters would give an undertaking that this particular clause would not be pressed. If it were not pressed he would withdraw his opposition to the Bill. If, on the other hand, the clause came down from the Committee in the shape in which it now stood, the opposition to the Bill would be renewed, and he should press it to a division.

Sir GEORGE NEWNES (Swansea) remarked that this Bill proposed an expenditure of £2,000,000 for the benefit of a densely-populated district and of the commerce of the country, and the clause to which objection had been taken by the hon. Member for the Exchange Division of Liverpool was, after all, only a subsidiary matter. He should have pleasure in accepting the offer of the hon. Member and in acceding to his terms.

Mr. CHARLES M'ARTHUR said that in these circumstances he would not oppose the Second Reading.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed.

PRIVATE BILLS (STANDING ORDER 62 COMPLIED WITH).

MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order No. 62 has been complied with, viz. :—

Cambrian Railways Bill.
Llandrindod Wells Water Bill.
Richmond Gas Bill.
Stroud Gas Bill.

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time.

BEXLEY TRAMWAYS BILL.

BURGESS HILL WATER BILL.

DEVONPORT GAS AND COKE BILL.

GLASGOW AND RENFREW DISTRICT RAILWAY TRANSFER BILL.

NORTH BRITISH RAILWAY BILL.

SOUTH YORKSHIRE ELECTRIC POWER BILL.

Read a second time, and committed.

DRAINAGE AND IMPROVEMENT OF LANDS (IRELAND) PROVISIONAL ORDER.

Bill to confirm a Provisional Order under the Drainage and Improvement of Lands (Ireland) Act, 1863, and the Acts amending the same, relating to the Triogue Drainage District, in Queen's County, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Austen Chamberlain and Mr. Attorney General for Ireland.

DRAINAGE AND IMPROVEMENT OF LANDS (IRELAND) PROVISIONAL ORDER BILL.

"To confirm a Provisional Order under the Drainage and Improvements of Lands (Ireland) Act, 1863, and the Acts amending the same, relating to the Triogue Drainage District, in Queen's County," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 93.]

PETITIONS.

BEER BILL.

Petition from Isle of Wight, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

BOROUGH FUNDS ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

Petition from Falkirk, against; to lie upon the Table.

CHURCH DISCIPLINE.

Petitions for alteration of Law, from Meopham; and Bideford; to lie upon the Table.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (HIGHER GRADE AND EVENING CONTINUATION SCHOOLS).

Petitions for alteration of Law, from Ryde; Aston; and Royton; to lie upon the Table.

PARLIAMENTARY FRANCHISE.

Petition from Bristol, for extension to Women; to lie upon the Table.

POOR LAW OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1896.

Petition for alteration of Law, from Whitby; and Strood; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Glasgow (four); Govan; Manchester; Aberdeen (two); Dumbarton; Burnley; Carlisle (two); West Kent; Cumwinton; Largs; Poulton; Malton; Hawick; London; Southampton; Llandillo (four); Selkirk; Lander (two); and York; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Larkhall; Perth; Aberchirder; Buckie; Peebles; Charlestown of Aberlour; Tillicoultry; Ardrossan; Arbroath; Port Glasgow (three); and Glasgow (two); to lie upon the Table.

WORKMEN'S HOUSES TENURE BILL.

Petition from Falkirk, against; to lie upon the Table

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

UNFUNDED DEBT.

Return [presented 8th March] to be printed. [No. 79.]

EXPLOSIONS (MESSRS. CURTIS AND HARVEY'S FACTORY AT TRIMLEY MARSH, SUFFOLK).

Copy presented, of Report by Captain M. B. Lloyd, R.A., Her late Majesty's Inspector of Explosives, to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Home Department, on the circumstances attending Explosions which occurred at the Mixing House and Store at the Factory of Messrs. Curtis and Harvey, Limited, at Trimley, Suffolk, on the 28th November, 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

POLLING DISTRICTS (COUNTY BOROUGH OF BRIGHTON).

Copies presented, of Orders made by the Council of the County Borough of Brighton on the 4th June, 1896, the 19th January, 1899, and the 21st February, 1901, altering certain Polling Districts in the Borough [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

NAVAL WORKS ACTS, 1896, 1896, 1897, AND 1899.

Account presented, showing the amount of Money issued out of the Consolidated Fund; the amount and nature of the Securities created in respect thereof; the amount of the surplus of Income over Expenditure for the financial year ended 31st March, 1896, and the amount of Money expended in pursuance of the Acts during the year ended the 31st March, 1900; together with the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 80.]

BIRTHS, DEATHS, MARRIAGES, AND VACCINATION (SCOTLAND).

Copy presented, of the Forty-sixth Annual Report on the Births, Deaths, and Marriages in Scotland for 1900, and Thirty-fifth Annual Report on Vaccination [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND) (CODE, 1901).

Copy presented, of Code of Regulations for Day Schools, 1901, with Appendices [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

PATENT ACTS.

Copy presented, of Report of the Committee appointed by the Board of Trade to inquire into the working of the Patent Acts on certain specified suggestions [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copy presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, No. 2560 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

PHARMACY ACTS (IRELAND).

Copy presented, of Order in Council, dated 7th March, 1901, approving of a Regulation made by the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

PAPER LAID UPON THE TABLE BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE.

Lunacy.—Copy of Return of all sums received by the Visitors of Lunatics for travelling expenses, or upon any other account, from 1st January to 31st December, 1900 [by Act].

COLONIAL LOANS ACT, 1899.

Copy ordered, "of Statement showing to what Colonies up to the present time sums have been advanced by the Treasury under the Colonial Loans Act, 1899, and for what purposes, to what amounts, and at what rates of interest; also the date on which each such Loan was sanctioned, and the date fixed for its repayment."—(*Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*)

DEATHS FROM STARVATION, OR ACCELERATED BY PRIVATION (LONDON).

Address for "Return of the number of all deaths in the Administrative County of London, in the year 1900, upon which a coroner's jury has returned a verdict of death from starvation, or death accelerated by privation; together with any observations furnished to the Local Government Board by Boards of Guardians with reference to cases included in the Return (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No 345, of Session 1900)."—(*Mr. Talbot.*)

ST. CROSS HOSPITAL, WINCHESTER.

Copy ordered, "of Correspondence with the Charity Commissioners with reference to the new scheme for the administration of St. Cross Hospital, Winchester."—(*Sir Walter Foster.*)

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

Copy ordered, "of Handbook to the Reports from the Committee of Public

Accounts, Vol. III. (1893 to 1900), with Index comprehending the three Vols. (1857 to 1900)."—(*Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*)

Copy presented accordingly; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 81.]

QUESTIONS.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—MONEY GRANT TO EARL ROBERTS.

MR. THOMAS SHAW (Hawick Burghs): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether it is the intention of His Majesty's Government to propose a grant of money to Earl Roberts in respect of his services in South Africa; and, if so, on or about what date the Vote may be expected to be taken.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): I have nothing to say on the subject at the present time.

VALUE OF CHARTERED COMPANY'S LANDS.

MR. J. P. FARRELL (Longford, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether any arrangements have been made by the Colonial Office to ascertain the value of property in land taken under the Chartered Company in South Africa before the breaking out of the war; and whether he can state how these allotments have been affected by the war; and, in case of death of grantees before the war, the property is now vested in any court or officer to whom inquiries as to particular estates can be addressed.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.): The Master of the High Court of Southern Rhodesia is the official who has charge of the estates of all persons deceased in Southern Rhodesia to whom inquiries should be addressed. I have no information as to the value of the land in question nor as to how it has been affected by the war.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: If particular cases are brought under the notice of the Colonial Office will inquiries be made?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: If the hon. Gentleman wishes for information as to any particular case and will communicate with me privately, I will endeavour to get it for him.

NEWSPAPER LIBELS ON BRITISH OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS.

MR. PIRIE (Aberdeen, N.): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney General if his attention has been drawn to proceedings taken by the Attorney General of the Cape Colony against the editor of the *South African News* for publishing a defamatory and seditious libel; if he is aware that the matter in question originally appeared in the *Freeman's Journal* of 15th January, being reprinted in *The Times* of the 16th January; whether it is his intention to take similar proceedings against those papers; and, if not, if he can explain on what grounds does the action of those papers differ from that of the *South African News*; and whether he has considered the desirability of such a prosecution, so that by a discovery order being made the name of the writer of the original matter may be disclosed.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Sir ROBERT FINLAY, Inverness Burghs): The propriety of proceedings for libel must depend upon the circumstances under which the publication has taken place. I may remind the hon. and gallant Member that such libels upon our officers and soldiers are in this country generally appreciated at their true value, while in the peculiar circumstances of South Africa their circulation there may do infinite mischief. The procedure suggested in the last paragraph of the question is quite unknown to our criminal law, and the proposal that a criminal prosecution should be instituted merely to obtain information is not one which commends itself to my mind.

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT SERVING IN SOUTH AFRICA.

MR. TULLY (Leitrim, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he can state when he will be prepared to grant the Return asked for as to the Members of both Houses of Parliament who volunteered for active service in South Africa.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): The hon. Member's proposed Return will involve a reference on various points to

South Africa. I hope the hon. Member will not press just now for such a Return, the preparation of which will involve a great deal of correspondence, to the detriment of work of a more pressing and important character.

MR. TULLY: I beg to give notice that I shall press for the Return.

RETURN OF VOLUNTEERS FROM THE FRONT.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is now in a position to state when the London Scottish and other Volunteers who have been on active service for upwards of a year in South Africa will be allowed to return to this country, so that they may no longer risk the loss of the situations which have been so long kept open for them.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE WAR OFFICE (Lord STANLEY, Lancashire, Westhoughton): As I have recently explained to the House, we are endeavouring to relieve as many as possible of the Volunteers, but it is not possible to say exactly when Lord Kitchener will be able to spare them.

COST OF ANIMAL TRANSPORT TO SOUTH AFRICA.

MR. CHARLES HOBHOUSE (Bristol, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can give the total amount of money spent since October, 1899, on the transport of horses and mules to South Africa from Great Britain and elsewhere.

LORD STANLEY: I have already stated to the House on a previous occasion that the cost cannot be given.

SOLDIERS' UNCLAIMED BALANCES.

MR. KEARLEY (Devonport): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he will state the amount of soldiers' unclaimed balances for the last year, and what portion of these ascertainable has been handed over to the Patriotic Fund Commissioners.

MR. BRODRICK: I have nothing to add to the reply which was given to the hon. Member on Friday last, the 8th instant.*

DECEASED SOLDIERS' ESTATES.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War on what grounds the War Office withhold payment of the estate of the late Private James Meehan, 1st Battalion Royal Dublin Fusiliers, who was killed in action at Amerfoot on 29th June last, from his widowed mother; whether he is aware that she has taken out letters of administration so as to safeguard the War Department in case of any other claims; and whether, as this poor woman is living in destitution in Longford, the money will now be ordered to be paid to her.

LORD STANLEY: Instructions were given on the 6th instant to issue the estate, amounting to £17 0s. 4d., to the man's mother. The delay arose through inability to obtain proof of the father's death, on whom, if alive, the estate devolved, as the soldier died intestate and unmarried.

PURCHASE OF FIELD GUNS FROM GERMANY.

MAJOR RASCH (Essex, Chelmsford): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can state who is responsible for advising the purchase of eighteen batteries of field guns from Germany; were they delivered according to contract, and inspected previously to acceptance; did the manufacturers supply projectiles, and what percentage of premature bursts have occurred; and have any other points of weakness developed in the mountings beyond the axle-trees.

MR. BRODRICK: The Secretary of State, under the advice of the responsible officers, is responsible for the purchase of all artillery guns, and of these as well as others. They were delivered according to contract and inspected previously to acceptance. The manufacturers supplied projectiles and fuses. No premature bursts have occurred. Some defects have been discovered, which will be remedied.

DISCHARGES FROM THE ARMY.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that the parents of a lad just over eighteen years of age, who enlisted in the Cameron Highlanders as recently as January last, have been unable to secure his discharge although they have offered to make the usual payment of £10; and will he consider the expediency of arranging for discharge by indulgence in cases such as this without awaiting the order for demobilisation.

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* See page 1028.

LORD STANLEY: The rule against the grant of discharges during mobilisation has been strictly enforced, and an exception in an individual case could not be made without injustice to the many who have been refused their discharge.

AGE CERTIFICATES FOR RECRUITS.

MR. PIRIE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether, under the new reforms of our Army system, the regulations for enlistment will be so altered by the requirement from the proposed recruit of the production of actual proof of age by birth or baptismal certificate or otherwise so as to preclude for good the possibility of a recruit, whether for Regulars, Militia, or Volunteers, being enlisted under a false or apparent age, and so remaining all through his military career, and nullifying the true efficacy of any age regulations of time at which he may become available for increase of pay or pension.

LORD STANLEY: As the hon. and gallant Member is aware, an experiment was made a few years ago to test the possibility of introducing a system of verification of soldiers' ages. The results of the experiment were such as to show that it would be impracticable to require the production of a birth or baptismal certificate from every recruit.

PIMLICO CLOTHING DEPARTMENT—MASTER TAILOR CUTTERS.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick's): I beg to ask the Financial Secretary to the War Office whether he can state the nature of the examinations for the position of the master tailor cutters at Pimlico Clothing Department; whether the competition is open to young men; how many of them are Roman Catholics; what are their salaries; and whether a similar clothing department will be established in Ireland either at Dublin, Belfast, or Cork.

LORD STANLEY: There are no "master tailor cutters" at the Army Clothing Department. Cutters are accepted on the strength of testimonials and characters received from former employers. Subject to age limits, anyone may apply, and no inquiry is made as to the religion of those employed. It is not proposed to establish a clothing department in Ireland.

NEW NAVAL COLLEGE AT DEVONPORT.

MR. NORMAN (Wolverhampton, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if he can say when the new Naval College to replace H.M.S. "Britannia" will be ready for occupation, and whether in the meantime temporary accommodation for the Naval cadets could be secured elsewhere.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER, Belfast, W.): The contract for the completion of the sick quarters terminates on 12th May, 1902, and for the College Buildings on 12th November, 1904, and at present no reason is seen for supposing that the work will not be completed by the contract time. The question of temporary accommodation is being considered in case it may be found necessary to remove the cadets from H.M.S. "Britannia" before the completion of the new buildings.

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHAPLAINS FOR THE NAVY.

MR JOYCE (Limerick): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty, in the case of single ships or squadrons of His Majesty's Navy at sea, if he can state what provision is made for the administration of the last sacraments which are of obligation to Roman Catholic sailors when dying.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: As stated in reply to previous questions, it is not possible to carry Roman Catholic chaplains on board His Majesty's ships. Full provision is made for ministering to the wants of Roman Catholic sailors on shore. The cruises are as a rule now of short duration, but during their continuance Roman Catholics on board His Majesty's ships are in the same position, as regards the administration of the sacraments, as sailors on other seagoing vessels during a voyage.

TIME-EXPIRED MEN-OF-WAR'S MEN ON THE CHINA STATION.

MR. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether a number of men-of-war's men now serving on the "Barfleur," the

"Centurion," and other war ships stationed in the Chinese waters are time-expired men; whether they are being detained against their will; and when they may be expected to be allowed to come home.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: The King's Regulations direct that time-expired men are to be sent home in time to admit of their receiving their discharge when the term of their engagement expires, unless the exigencies of the Service are such as to render their detention for a time necessary. It is possible that owing to the recent troubles in China some men may have been detained, but the cases must be few and their detention would not be continued when the existence of the necessity was removed.

MR. KEIR HARDIE: Will the hon. Gentleman call the attention of the responsible authority to the desire of the men to be immediately released?

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I have no doubt that the attention of the Commander-in-Chief has been called to the fact that the men are time-expired.

WOOLWICH ARSENAL—LABOURERS' WAGES.

MR. ARTHUR MORTON (Deptford): I beg to ask the Civil Lord of the Admiralty if he will state how many labourers are employed in the Naval Ordnance Department of Woolwich Arsenal, and what rates of pay they receive, distinguishing the number of men employed and the rate of wages paid in each separate class.

*THE CIVIL LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. PRETYMAN, Suffolk, Woodbridge): There are 365 labourers employed at rates of pay varying from 21s. to 27s. per week. I shall be glad to give the hon. Member further details if he will speak to me after Questions.

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.): How many are employed under 24s. a week?

*MR. PRETYMAN: About 325.

CHINA—LOOTING AT PEKING AND TIENTSIN.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the Government have any information to show that looting and pillage have been committed by British or other European troops in or near Peking or Tientsin, and that valuable property thus plundered has been publicly sold under the direction of British officers; whether such conduct is contrary to the modern usages of war as declared by the Hague Convention; and whether the Government intend to adopt any means for the restitution of the property so taken, and for the punishment of the offenders as their conduct may deserve.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Lord G. HAMILTON, Middlesex, Ealing): So far as I know there has not been any pillage or plunder by British troops in China in the sense implied by the question. General Gaselee reported in August last that "looting was openly tolerated among certain of the allied troops," and every effort was made by him to prevent our soldiers from participating in the indiscriminate plunder and wanton destruction of property which was prevalent elsewhere. In the areas assigned to British occupation there were a number of derelict houses. General Gaselee directed that the ownerless property so left should be taken charge of by authorised search parties, and where the legal owner could not be found sold by public auction for the benefit of all. There has not been any violation of the Hague Convention.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: Would it be possible to have General Gaselee's report presented to the House?

MR. TULLY: Is it not a fact that at Christie's they are actually selling loot taken in China?

LORD G. HAMILTON: Possibly that may be so, but it does not necessarily follow that the things were looted by British troops. As to the question of the hon. Member for Dundee, I am rather doubtful, as General Gaselee's report referred not only to British but to other troops.

CAPE-AUSTRALIAN CABLE.

SIR EDWARD SASSOON (Hythe): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether, in view of the importance of the projected Cape Australian cable as con stituting a link in the All-British system, he would lay upon the Table of the House a copy of the agreement with the contracting company; and whether permission has been granted for landing rights on each and all of the intervening mid-ocean stations, and what terms and conditions have been attached thereto in the protection of the public interests.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: No formal agreement has been signed between His Majesty's Government and the Eastern and Eastern Extension Cable Companies in regard to the Cape-Australian cable, but I have informed the company that landing rights at Mauritius, Rodriguez, and Cocos Islands will be granted on condition that the sliding scale rates in regard to the traffic between England and South Africa are extended to these places. It is intended that the landing licences shall contain the same conditions and stipulations in favour of the Government and the public as the licence about to be issued by the Board of Trade to the same Company for the new cable from Madeira to Porth Curnow.

CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT — ARRANGEMENTS FOR REBUILDING.

MR. THOMAS DEWAR (Tower Hamlets, St. George's): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the delay in the rebuilding of the Central Criminal Court is due to the action of any Government Department; whether he is aware that the Corporation of the City of London have duly approved plans for the rebuilding but are unable to proceed owing to the difficulties placed in their way by the Government; and, seeing two judges have recently been indisposed in consequence of having to preside at trials under the present insanitary conditions of the Old Bailey, whether any steps can be taken to temporarily avoid such a state of affairs pending the erection of the new Courts.

The following question also appeared on the Paper:—

DR. FARQUHARSON (Aberdeenshire, W.): To ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether the attention of the Government has been directed to the insanitary condition of the Central Criminal Court, which has injuriously affected the health of the Lord Chief Justice and other Judges who have had occasion to sit there; and whether they are in a position to do anything to remedy such a dangerous state of matters.

SIR JOSEPH DIMSDALE (London): I beg to ask the same right hon. Gentleman whether he is aware that the Corporation of London have already paid £25,000 to his Majesty's Commissioners of Prisons in part payment of the £40,000 agreed upon between the Corporation and the Government for the purchase of the male wing of Newgate, and that the City Lands Committee, who have the matter in hand, are quite prepared to start the work of rebuilding the Central Criminal Court as soon as they gain possession of this land from the Government.

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. JESSE COLLINGS, Birmingham, Bordesley): With regard to the question of my hon. friend the Member for the City of London, I have no doubt the facts are as he has stated them, but the City Corporation will allow the financial arrangements with the Government are very favourable to themselves, and they have made them on the express understanding that the prison would not be handed over until accommodation elsewhere was provided for the prisoners. With regard to the question of my hon. friend the Member for St. George's, I have to say that the City of London authorities are responsible for the building in which the Central Criminal Court is held. In order to furnish them with a site on which to build a new court, His Majesty's Government have agreed to surrender Newgate Prison, but in order to make this possible extensive alterations have to be made in prison buildings elsewhere. This involves considerable delay, but it is not the case that His Majesty's Government are placing difficulties in the way. As a matter of fact, the Prison Commissioners are doing all they can to complete the arrangements which are a necessary preliminary to the discontinuance of Newgate Prison, and the transfer of its site to the Corporation.

HYDE PARK — RAILINGS AND LIGHTING.

*COLONEL LEGGE (St. George's, Hanover Square): I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works whether it is proposed to remove the remaining iron railings inside Hyde Park; and whether he will consider the desirability of lighting the roadway between Victoria Gate and the Marble Arch.

THE FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS (Mr. AKERS DOUGLAS, Kent, St. Augustine's): It is proposed ultimately to remove all the iron post and rail fence in Hyde Park except the portion round the ride. I have not at present sufficient funds to meet the heavy expense of lighting the roadway referred to by my hon. and gallant friend. Seeing that there is a public roadway running parallel to it, and within a few yards, it is not so pressing as other changes.

LONDON BOROUGH COUNCILS—TRIENNIAL ELECTIONS.

CAPTAIN JESSEL (St. Pancras, S.): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he can now give an answer to the petitions of the City of Westminster and other borough councils of London in favour of triennial elections.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. WALTER LONG, Bristol, S.): I am now in a position to deal with this matter. Subject to its being shown that the conditions prescribed by Sub-section 8 of Section 2 of the Local Government Act have been complied with, I propose generally to assent to the applications made to me to direct that the Metropolitan borough councillors shall all retire together on the ordinary day of election in every third year. A few cases in which objections have been received will of course have to be specially considered.

VACCINATION STATISTICS.

MR. BARTLEY (Islington, N.): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he can state how many children were born in England and Wales in 1900, or the last year for which the statistics are known, and how many of these were vaccinated.

MR. WALTER LONG: The latest complete returns are those for the year 1898. The number of children born in that year was 923,059, and of these 562,737 were successfully vaccinated.

MR. BARTLEY: Are we to understand, then, that just half the population is now unvaccinated under the new law?

MR. WALTER LONG: I should not like my hon. friend to draw that deduction at present, because these figures are only for 1898.

SIR WALTER FOSTER (Derbyshire, Ilkeston): Can the right hon. Gentleman say whether these figures are larger than those of preceding years?

MR. WALTER LONG: I could not really say, as I have not the figures before me.

BEER ADULTERATION.

MR. ALFRED DAVIES (Carmarthen Boroughs): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board if his attention has been called to the unanimous resolution passed by the Carmarthenshire Chamber of Agriculture as to the necessity of a Bill being passed to secure purity in beer, by laying down therein the ingredients of which beer may be composed, and the compelling of brewers at regular intervals to make a return of beer brewed and ingredients used; and, if so, whether he can assure the House of his intention to introduce promptly a Bill carrying out the purport of this resolution.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir M. HICKS BEACH, Bristol, W.): The President of the Local Government Board has asked me to answer this question, as the resolution aims, not only at the exclusion of deleterious ingredients from beer, but at limiting the freedom of brewers to use materials which, though wholesome, are not malt and hops. I can give no such assurance on behalf of the Government as is desired by the hon. Member.

EDUCATION—ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS CURRICULA.

DR. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.): I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education whether he can give the House an assurance that in the future administration of the Higher Elementary Minute local authorities applying to have schools recognised under the Minute will be granted freedom in the preparation of proposed curricula for their schools, so that, as in the terms of the Minute, they may adapt the instruction to the circumstances of the scholars and the neighbourhood; and, further, whether he can hold out any prospect that the recognition of schools on whose account application for grants under the Minute is made will be on a more generous scale in the present year than in the past.

THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Sir J. GORST, Cambridge University): The Board of Education give full freedom to managers in all public elementary schools to submit their own courses of study. The only special conditions as to course of instruction attaching to higher elementary schools are (1) that a certain amount of science, proper to a course of general education, is taken; and (2) that technological subjects are not generally admissible. The recognition of higher elementary schools depends not on the generosity of the Board of Education, but upon the existence in the locality of the conditions specified in the Minute.

DR. MACNAMARA: Is it a fact that the Board of Education has declined to sanction business training as part of the curriculum for higher grade schools under the London Board?

SIR J. GORST: Yes, Sir. They regard business training as technological.

NEW DUSTON SCHOOL.

MR. ROBERT SPENCER (Northamptonshire, Mid): I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education whether his attention has been called to the want of school accommodation at New Duston, and whether he has received a petition from the inhabitants respecting this lack of accommodation; and whether he can see his way to take the necessary steps to secure that the desired accommodation shall be provided.

SIR J. GORST: Yes; the hon. Member presented me with the petition a few days ago. The urban part of the United School District of Duston has been incorporated in the borough of Northampton, and there is, according to our information, ample school accommodation in the rural part left outside. New Duston as a separate parish is unknown to the Board of Education.

EDUCATION CODE—RURAL SCHOOLS.

SIR W. HART DYKE (Kent, Dartford): I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Council when the new Education Code will be laid on the Table; and whether the new proposals with regard to education in rural schools will become effective under the operation of the Code this year.

SIR J. GORST: I hope to lay the Code on the Table before Easter. The Papers which have been recently issued represent the settled policy of education, and every effort will be made to introduce into the rural schools of this country the system of teaching embodied in those proposals.

DR. MACNAMARA: I beg to ask whether, having regard to the new curriculum, there will be a more generous system of finance under the new Code in dealing with rural schools.

SIR J. GORST: That is the second question the hon. Member has asked appealing to the generosity of the Board of Education in this country. Public Departments are never generous. They have to act in accordance with settled rules of law which leave no place for such a sentiment as generosity.

CIVIL SERVICE — UNESTABLISHED WORK AND PENSIONS.

MR. YOXALL (Nottingham, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he can state how many persons, at one time employed in the Government service upon a temporary footing, have since 1884 been placed upon the permanent establishment, and of these in how many cases is the continuous temporary service rendered prior to establishment counted towards pension, as if the entire service had been upon the establishment.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.): No, Sir; I regret that I have no means of ascertaining the numbers.

CIVIL SERVICE APPOINTMENTS.

*COLONEL LEGGE: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether it is in contemplation to reduce the age at which abstracters, sorters, and boy copyists in the Post Office may compete for higher civil service appointments: and, if so, whether those at present in the service will be exempted from the operation of the new rule.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: It was decided last year in the interests of the public service to diminish the age deduction which may be made by civil servants competing for the second division and for assistantships of Customs and Excise. To prevent any possible hardship I have now arranged that the new Regulations shall only apply to persons who entered the service subsequent to its announcement in the spring of last year.

CHEAP TEAS.

MR. HENRY HOBHOUSE (Somersetshire, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury if his attention has been drawn to the fact that quantities of inferior Ceylon and other teas alleged to contain microbial products dangerous to health are being sold in bond in London at prices ranging below 4d. per lb.; if the Customs officers have taken and analysed any samples of such teas, and with what results; and what amount has been seized and destroyed during the past twelve months; and if, in the interests of public health, he is willing to consent to an inquiry into the best methods of checking the sale of such unwholesome teas by determining some minimum standard of purity, and by securing a proper analysis of such teas before they are blended with other teas.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The Board of Customs have no knowledge of sales in bond of tea containing microbial products dangerous to health. They have power to forbid the introduction of tea that is found on analysis "to be mixed with other substances or exhausted tea," or is declared by the analyst to be "unfit for human food." During the past twelve months 2,055 packages were refused admission for home consumption or for use as ship stores. The second paragraph of the question should be addressed to the Local Government Board, which is the authority specially charged by statute with the protection of the public health.

MR. HENRY HOBHOUSE: Were the rejected packages destroyed?

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I cannot answer that without notice.

ISSUE OF NEW POSTAGE STAMPS.

MR. HENNIKER HEATON (Canterbury): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, if he can state what steps are being taken to issue new postage stamps; will he take care that a clearly visible mark of the value of the stamp, such as that on the 2d. stamp, be impressed on each new stamp; and will he give the public an opportunity of seeing the designs of the proposed stamps; and will he provide for the issue of the new penny stamp in royal scarlet, or red colour, in place of the present mauve colour.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The necessary steps are being taken for the issue of new postage stamps, but it is not expected that they will be ready for some months to come. The Postmaster General would point out to the hon. Member that, with the exception of the halfpenny, penny, and shilling stamps, all the adhesive stamps now in use do bear figures clearly indicating their value, and the same plan will probably be continued. In the case of the three stamps particularised they are of so distinctive a character that it was not thought necessary to print on them the value, in figures as well as in words, and the Postmaster General is not aware of any inconvenience having resulted. He does not think it desirable to submit the designs of the proposed stamps to the public. The Postmaster General is not satisfied that any sufficient reason exists for altering the colour of the penny stamp as suggested by the hon. Member.

POSTAL ORDER COUNTERFOILS.

MR. HENNIKER HEATON: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he will arrange with the present contractors to issue the new postal orders with a counterfoil to be torn off by the senders; and whether, if the present contractors decline to do this without extra charge, he will give an opportunity to other printers to print and supply the new postal orders at even a reduced price and with the counterfoil desired by the public.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The Postmaster General has for some time past had the question of issuing postal orders with counterfoils under his consideration, but there are many practical difficulties in the way, and he has not yet been able to arrive at a conclusion.

EXAMINING OFFICERS OF CUSTOMS.

MR. O'MALLEY (Galway, Connemara): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether, in view of the fact that more than 100 examining officers of Customs will become redundant by the substitution of clerks for officers of this class in the Tea and Dry Goods Accounts Offices in the London Custom House, he will give an undertaking that the existing officers of the classes affected shall suffer no retardation of promotion as a result of the contemplated changes; and can he state what objection there is, if any, to inform the officers in advance of the exact measures which will be taken to safeguard their legitimate interests.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I regret that I am at present unable to add anything to the answer which I gave to the hon. Member on the 28th February.* The new arrangements will be communicated to the Customs Services as soon as they are finally settled.

LERWICK POST OFFICE.

MR. CATHCART WASON (Orkney and Shetland): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Post master General, whether his official information shows that the post office building at Lerwick is in an insanitary condition, having little light and ventilation, and only lavatory accommodation consisting of an apartment about three feet square for the use of a mixed staff of persons; and, whether steps can be taken to make the necessary alterations.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The post office at Lerwick, which was provided in 1878 and enlarged in 1889, is now too small for the work, and as the building is not capable of adequate enlargement inquiries are being made for a suitable site for the erection of a new building. The Postmaster General is not aware that the present office is insanitary; but inquiry shall be made.

CONVEYANCE OF STORNOWAY MAILS

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, if he will state what progress has been made with the negotiations with the North British Railway Company for the conveyance of the Stornoway mails viâ Mallaig; and will care be taken that tenders are invited for the steamer service between Mallaig and Stornoway.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The negotiations with the North British Railway Company for the use of the new railway to Mallaig have not yet been completed, and no decision has been arrived at in regard to the question of sending mails to Stornoway over this new line. As any steamer service from Mallaig must in the first instance be experimental in character, the Postmaster General thinks that it would not be expedient at present to invite tenders as the hon. Member suggests.

ILLEGAL TRAWLING OFF ABERDEEN

MR. PIRIE: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether, having regard to the fact that the "Jackal" is the gunboat more directly charged with the duty of preventing illegal trawling in the close vicinity of Aberdeen, he can state how often during the months of December, January, and February, respectively, this boat has been berthed in Aberdeen harbour, and on how many of such occasions she has taken up her mooring inside the dock gates of the harbour; what is the number of officers on board her, and since when has the present officer in charge of her held the appointment; and where are the gunboats "Brenda" and "Niger" at the present moment.

THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire): As regards the first part of the hon. Member's question, I must refer him to the Admiralty, within whose jurisdiction the matter rests. As regards the second part, I presume the hon. Member refers to the Fishery Board cruisers "Brenda" and "Norna," and, if so, the answer is that the waters patrolled by the "Brenda" are Berwick-on-Tweed to Rattray Head, and by the "Norna" the Moray Firth.

SCOTTISH FISHERY RETURNS.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate if the Secretary for Scotland will grant a Return (Fishery Harbours, Scotland) showing the name of each fishery harbour on the coast of Scotland, the name of the county in which it is situated, the date of its construction, the area, the name of the proprietor or authority responsible for its upkeep, its present condition, and the funds derived from the harbour in dues or otherwise for each year since 1890.

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* See page 58.

MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: There are no materials at the disposal of the Secretary for Scotland to enable such a Return to be framed. There would have to be a special inquiry, and the Secretary for Scotland is unable to see any such public purpose to be served by the Return as to justify ordering such an inquiry to be made.

IRISH LAND COURT SALES.

MR. MACARTNEY (Antrim, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state what is the amount of purchase money paid for lands sold by the Judge of the Land Court since the Act of 1896 came into force, under Section 40 and under other powers.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover): The amount advanced under orders made pursuant to the 40th section of the Act of 1896 is £351,729, and the amount realised by sales to tenants pursuant to agreements sanctioned by the Land Judge is £628,385, making in all £980,114. These figures are brought down to the end of October last, the latest date to which they are at present available.

MR. FLYNN (Cork, N.): Can the right hon. Gentleman say how many estates have been sold under Section 40 of the Act?

MR. WYNDHAM: No, the holdings are sold separately and the estates are not sold *en bloc*.

BANN DRAINAGE BILL.

MR. MACARTNEY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in consequence of the injury inflicted by the floods on the Bann, he will consider the expediency of re-introducing the Bann Drainage Bill or other remedial measures.

MR. WYNDHAM: As already stated, I am not prepared to introduce in the present session legislation in this matter.

ENNIS DISTRICT LUNATIC ASYLUM FINANCE.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): On behalf of the hon. Member for East Clare, I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether his attention has been called to the fact that a sum of £934 16s. 2d. has been certified by the Government Auditor as due to the Ennis District Lunatic Asylum for the capitation grant towards the support of the asylum for the three months ending 21st March, 1899, and to the fact that this debt was acknowledged by the then Secretary to the Treasury, and whether this sum will now be paid immediately.

MR. WYNDHAM: At the request of my hon. friend, I will reply to this question. This matter has already formed the subject of correspondence between the Irish Government and the Committee of Management of the Ennis Asylum, and I have nothing to add to the views of the Government has already expressed. The hon. Member has not correctly interpreted the statement made by the late Secretary to the Treasury. For an accurate report of what he did say I would refer to *The Parliamentary Debates* of 30th April, 1900 [Fourth Series], vol. lxxxii., page 285.

SEA FISHING—MANUAL OF IRISH STATUTES.

MR PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will lay upon the Table a manual of the various Irish statutes and bye-laws regarding sea fishing, similar to the volume issued last week to Members of the House regarding Scotland.

MR. WYNDHAM: Yes, this will be done.

KILFEE BURIAL GROUND, COUNTY WICKLOW.

MR. COGAN (Wicklow, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Kilfee burial ground, in the Ballycullen electoral Division of the Rathdrum rural district, county Wicklow, which is under the Rathdrum Rural

District Council, is at present unprotected by any fence, and is consequently overrun with cattle and sheep, which injure the graves and memorials; and that this cemetery was originally twice its present size, but has been reduced by the owner of the land in which it is situate converting it into a cattle walk; and whether the Local Government Board will take steps to have this cemetery restored to its original size, and have it properly protected.

MR. WYNDHAM: The clerk of the rural council states that the fencing of this burial ground, which had been broken in places, has now been restored. It is possible that the cemetery was originally larger, but in regard to that matter the Local Government Board has no information and no jurisdiction.

CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD FISH CURING INDUSTRY.

MR. FLYNN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether, having regard to the fact that the Congested Districts Board, in connection with the fish curing industry, require a considerable number of barrels, the Board will ask for tenders from Cork cooperage works, seeing that some coopering firms in that city have special facilities for turning out this class of work.

MR. WYNDHAM: Cooperages were opened by the Board for the purpose of imparting instruction in barrel making in congested districts, and until the industry has been firmly established I do not think it would be prudent for the Board to withdraw its support from these cooperages.

DOUGLAS (IRELAND) NATIONAL SCHOOL.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL (Kerry, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the teacher of Douglas National School, Roll No. 12,875, District 54, sent early in January an order for books to the Board's stores, and has since got no reply; and that the manager of the school, who wrote more than three weeks since, complaining of the matter, has not yet got a reply; and whether, seeing that on 19th February, a second order was sent from the same and no reply has yet been sent, steps will be taken to place this department on a business-like footing.

MR. WYNDHAM: I have called for a Report on this question; but as I have not yet received it, I will ask the hon. Member to repeat the question to-morrow.

ROXBORO ROAD SCHOOL, LIMERICK.

MR. JOYCE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if his statement made recently in Dublin to the effect that only one case was left unfinished by the Educational Endowments Commission was accurate; and can he say what is the position of the Roxboro Road School at Limerick.

MR. WYNDHAM: I stated correctly that the Judicial Commissioners arrived at the unanimous decision imposed by the Educational Endowments Act of 1885 in all but one case. This is so. In answer to the second paragraph the House has on two separate occasions disapproved of the schemes approved of by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. The powers of the Commissioners lapsed on the 31st December, 1897, and Mr. Gregg remains in occupation as a tenant from year to year. There is now no power to frame a new scheme.

MR. JOYCE: I shall put a further question on this matter.

MR. WYNDHAM: The hon. Member will do better to raise it on the Estimates. The matter can hardly be debated by way of question and answer.

PARSONSTOWN AND PORTUMNA RAILWAY.

MR. ROCHE (Galway, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that on 29th March, 1897, the then Chief Secretary for Ireland stated in the House of Commons that if a responsible railway company, such as the Great Southern and Western Company, were got to restore the Parsonstown and Portumna Derelict Railway at a cost of £24,000, and maintain it when restored, the Government would be prepared to advance one-half this sum, £12,000, for that purpose; and that an offer has been made by the International Railway Corporation, Limited, to spend £12,000 on restoring the line, and working and equipping it thereafter; and will he accordingly carry out the promise of his predecessor in office and accept the offer of the International Company.

Mr. WYNDHAM: I am aware of the statement made by my predecessor on the date mentioned. In answer to the second paragraph, I must refer the hon. Member to my replies to previous questions of the 4th and 7th instant on the same subject.*

Mr. ROCHE: Am I to understand the Government refuse the offer of the International Railway Corporation?

Mr. WYNDHAM: The Treasury do not see their way to accept the proposals of the Corporation.

UNITED IRISH LEAGUE MEETING AT BALLINALEE.

Mr. J. P. FARRELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland will he explain by whose order County Inspector M'Dermott, with District Inspectors Rodwell and Millar, attended by 100 policemen armed with rifles, proceeded to Ballinalee on Sunday last to prevent the East Collumbkille fife and drum band from playing outside the League rooms in Ballinalee, in which the North Longford executive of the United Irish League was holding its monthly meeting; is he aware that these policemen kept following the band up and down the village of Ballinalee, and refused to allow them to stand for a moment at any house; can he explain what was the meaning of such conduct considering that the band had come a long distance merely to exercise; whether he is aware that no public meeting of any kind was intended or attempted, and no person or persons were boycotted or in any way interfered with in the neighbourhood; and whether the County Inspector ordered this display contrary to the advice and wish of his subordinate officers; and will an inquiry be made into all the circumstances of the case.

Mr. WYNDHAM: Fifty, not 100, police were assembled at Ballinalee on the occasion referred to; none of these men were armed with rifles. No attempt was made to prevent the two bands present from playing outside the place of meeting or from parading the streets. A few police only accompanied the bands through the village, which is the course adopted on all such occasions; the greater number of the police were confined to barracks. The force attended by the express order of Government in view of the fact that a large concourse of people was expected to be present and that proper precautions had to be taken.

Mr. J. P. FARRELL: Was any information sworn that would lead the Government to believe a breach of the peace was expected on that occasion?

Mr. WYNDHAM: No, Sir. No information was sworn. The precautions taken were proper police precautions, which would be taken anywhere in Ireland or elsewhere when a large crowd was expected to assemble.

Mr. FARRELL: Will the cost of this police display fall on the county?

Mr. WYNDHAM: I cannot say without notice, but I should say the mere concentration of police would not involve any charge.

DUBLIN CITY HOSPITAL FOR DISEASES OF THE SKIN.

Mr. JOHN CAMPBELL (Armagh, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the fact that Dr. White, surgeon at the City Hospital for Diseases of the Skin, Beresford Place, Dublin, tried to induce Mrs. M'Ginley, a poor Roman Catholic widow, to enter the Protestant ward of the hospital of the South Dublin Union, which would have meant the registration as Protestants of herself and her four orphan children; whether he will institute an inquiry into the case; and whether he will endeavour to ascertain whether there are in the Protestant ward of the South Dublin Union any Roman Catholics brought there by similar inducements.

Mr. WYNDHAM: The hospital referred to is not subject in any way to the jurisdiction of the Local Government Board, and that Department has no authority to institute an inquiry as suggested. The Guardians of the South Dublin Union are perfectly competent to make the inquiry suggested in the last paragraph, if they think it expedient to do so.

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* See pages 392 and 824.

NEWTOWNSTEWART (TYRONE) POLICE BARRACKS.

MR. HEMPHILL (Tyrone, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether complaints from Newtownstewart, North Tyrone, have reached him to the effect that the police barrack there is occupied exclusively by the head constable and his grown-up family, thereby necessitating the other members of the force to reside out of barracks; and whether it is against the regulations of the force that the grown-up families of constables should live in barracks; and, if so, will he be pleased to have such regulations put in force.

MR. WYNDHAM: The right hon. Gentleman has, I think, been misinformed. The head constable has six children residing with him in the barrack, and no breach of the regulations has been committed in this respect. The barrack is not exclusively occupied by the family of this officer, and no other members of the force are obliged to live outside the barrack for the reason stated.

MR. HEMPHILL: As a matter of fact, is not the head constable the only officer residing in the barracks?

MR. WYNDHAM: I do not gather that from the information I have received. Anyway there has been no breach of the regulations and therefore there is no need for interference.

NEWTOWNSTEWART POLICE FORCE—CONSTITUTION.

*MR. HEMPHILL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the fact that the three senior officers of the Royal Irish Constabulary stationed at Newtownstewart—namely, the head constable, the senior sergeant, and one acting sergeant are Protestants, although Newtownstewart is a place where party disturbances are liable to occur; and whether he will take steps that one of the senior officers at least should be a Roman Catholic.

MR. WYNDHAM: The head constable and one of the two sergeants are Protestants; the other sergeant is a Roman Catholic. There has been no disturbance of a party nature at Newtownstewart for several years past.

SHILLELAGH UNION INQUIRIES.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether Dr. Flinn, Local Government Board Inspector, who recently investigated the charges made by Dr. Bolster against Nurse Joyce, received from the nurse the names of witnesses who could give evidence in her defence; and whether he summoned any of them to attend the Inquiry at Shillelagh; and, if so, how many, and were they examined by Dr. Flinn.

MR. WYNDHAM: The inspector received a list of thirty-four witnesses from Nurse Joyce and of sixteen witnesses from Dr. Bolster. In both instances Dr. Flinn summoned only those witnesses whose evidence related directly to the subject matter of the Inquiry. Eight of the nurse's witnesses were summoned, of whom seven were examined; and nine of Dr. Bolster's witnesses were summoned, of whom six were examined. Those not examined left the Inquiry before it was concluded, and no desire was expressed that they should be recalled and examined.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR: Is Dr. Flinn a legal expert as to whether evidence is material?

MR. WYNDHAM: The others were only witnesses as to character.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.): On the Estimate for the Irish Local Government Board I shall call attention to the conduct of Dr. Flinn.

SOUTH LEITRIM UNION.

MR. TULLY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Local Government Board have received resolutions from the Leitrim County Council and Mohill District Council asking to have the unions in South Leitrim amalgamated with a view to using one of the workhouses used as an auxiliary asylum; and whether, in consequence of this proposal, the Lord Lieutenant will withhold his sanction from the proposed loan of £40,000 for enlarging Sligo asylum, the chief cost of maintaining which falls on the ratepayers of Leitrim and Sligo.

MR. WYNDHAM: The answer to the first paragraph is in the affirmative. The county councils of Sligo and Leitrim, the two counties constituting the Asylum District, have not yet sanctioned the proposed loan of £40,000 for the enlargement of the asylum, and until the proposal has been considered by them the question will not come before the Lord Lieutenant.

WORKMEN'S HOUSES AT BOYLE.

MR. TULLY: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether any steps have been taken to expedite the issuing of a loan of £1,800 to the Boyle Town Commissioners for the building of houses under the Housing of the Working Classes Acts, the Act for this purpose having been passed last August, and the loan sanctioned by the Local Government Board.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: Yes, Sir; special steps were taken to expedite the preparation of the deed of mortgage which was forwarded on the 6th instant for execution by Boyle Town Commissioners. An issue on account of the loan will be made immediately after the due execution of the deed.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS IN IRELAND—FAIR WAGES CLAUSE.

MR. NANNETTI (Dublin, College Green): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he has seen a resolution, passed by the United Trades Council and Labour League of Dublin, which stated that much difficulty is experienced in obtaining particulars relating to Government contracts in Ireland, and in identifying the persons entrusted therewith, and also that complaints have been made as regards the carrying out of the Fair Wages Resolution; and whether, in order to remove these difficulties, he would order that concise particulars of all Government contracts, together with the names of the persons whose tenders are accepted, be set out in the *Labour Gazette*; that a penalty of not less than five per cent. on the amount of the tender be imposed on all contractors who fail to comply with the Fair Wages Resolution in executing the work; and that the names of all such contractors be published.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I have received a copy of the resolution referred to. I am afraid it would be impossible to arrange for the publication of particulars of all Government contracts in the *Labour Gazette*. A clause providing for a fine of the nature suggested has been included in certain recent contracts, but before extending it further I think it desirable to have some experience of its working. Up to the present time no case has arisen for imposing penalties under it. When such cases arise, I shall have no objection to giving the particulars asked for.

MR. NANNETTI: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that many complaints have been brought before this House of the way in which the contractors carry out the Fair Wages resolution? Will the hon. Gentleman inquire further?

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: If the hon. Member has a complaint to make about any particular contract, and will give me such details as will enable me to identify the case, I shall be happy to have it investigated, but I cannot set out on a roving commission on the general statement that there are complaints.

REGISTRATION OF PATENTS IN IRELAND.

MR. MOONEY (Dublin County, S.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether the rules as to registration under the terms of the Patents, Designs, and Trade Marks Acts, 1883-1888, can be purchased in Ireland; and, if so, will he state where they can be obtained.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): The rules of 1890 are included in the volume of Statutory Rules for that year, which may be obtained of Messrs. Hodges, Figgis, and Company, of 104, Grafton Street, Dublin, the agents of His Majesty's Stationery Office for the sale of Statutory Rules. Since 1893 rules under the Patent, etc., Act have been treated as Statutory Rules, and as such may be purchased in separate form from Messrs. Hodges. The Patent Agents' Rules for 1899 were printed as a Parliamentary paper, and in that form may also be purchased in Dublin of Messrs. Hodges. When a reprint of the rules of 1890 is required they will be printed as Statutory Rules in separate form and put on sale in Ireland.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL—HOUSING SCHEMES.

DR. MACNAMARA: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, having regard to the refusal of the Local Government Board to accede to the plea of the London County Council that it may be permitted to spread the repayment of its housing schemes loans over 100 years, the said refusal being based on the fact that a previous Parliament has disagreed with the proposal, the Government will afford facilities for the present Parliament to express an opinion upon the matter.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I am afraid I cannot promise a day for the discussion which the hon. Member suggests.

SWISS MILITARY SYSTEM.

MR. YERBURGH (Chester): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether the Government will appoint a Commission to inquire into and report upon the military system of Switzerland, such inquiry to be directed not only to the character, efficiency, and cost of the system, but also to its effects upon the industry, physique, and morals of the population.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not think much would be gained by the Commission desired by my hon. friend. There is a great deal of information on the subject in the possession of the War Office at the present time.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.): May I ask the First Lord of the Treasury if he will not take Vote A of the Army Estimates before Thursday, considering the importance of the statement made by the Secretary for War?

MR. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.): Can the right hon. Gentleman state when he proposes to take the Report stage of the Vote on Account, and if any time will be permitted for its discussion?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: In answer to the hon. Member for West Islington, I must say that I do not quite follow the argument involved in his question. There has been an interval since Friday night which has enabled the House and the country to consider the important statement of my right hon. friend. I hope, therefore, we shall proceed with the discussion as rapidly as possible. As regards the question of the hon. Member for South Tyrone, there are Army and Navy subjects of the first importance requiring to be discussed, and I, therefore, do not, at present, see any opportunity of taking the Report stage of the Vote on Account.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL: Then it will not be taken to-night?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: No.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): With regard to the discussion on the Army Estimates, will the right hon. Gentleman not agree to postpone getting the Speaker out of the Chair until to-morrow, at least, in order that we may have time for the full discussion of the statement? Let me point out—[Cries of "Order!"]—well, perhaps I had better put it in an interrogative form in order to keep in order. Does the right hon. Gentleman appreciate the fact which is present to our minds that there are two aspects of this question, the aspect of general policy and that of detailed policy? Could we not have the general policy discussed before Mr. Speaker leaves the Chair, so as to leave us free for the consideration of details afterwards?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: If that were the general understanding on both sides of the House, I am of opinion that it would be a very convenient arrangement to abstain altogether from discussing details at this stage, and to deal with nothing but details at the later stage. I do not propose, however, to try to get Mr. Speaker out of the Chair until to-morrow, in any case.

SIR JAMES JOICEY (Durham, Chester-le-Street): May I ask whether, considering the importance of the statement made by the Secretary for War, the right hon. Gentleman will, for the convenience of the House, have the speech printed and circulated?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: That has never been done, and I hope it never will be.

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I wish to prevent any possibility of mistake, but does not the right hon. Gentleman go a little too far when he says that at the later stage we are to speak on nothing but details?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: Of course, I mean as far as possible.

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I hope there will be no misunderstanding. The right hon. Gentleman has no objection, I take it, to our discussing the Army Estimates to-night with Mr. Speaker in the Chair, it being understood the debate is not to be concluded to-night?

Sir JAMES JOICEY: There is a precedent for what I asked the right hon. Gentleman. The Chancellor of the Exchequer has printed and circulated his statement before now?

Mr. JAMES LOWTHER (Kent, Thanet): What is the business for Thursday?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I thought the hon. Member for Chester-le-Street wanted the speech of my right hon. friend the Secretary for War laid as a Parliamentary paper in the same way as, I believe, in France, speeches which meet with the general favour in the French Chamber are printed and circulated. I do not think that that would be a happy precedent to set. With regard to the business for Thursday, that, of course, depends on the progress made with the Army Estimates. Personally, I anticipate that the discussion on those Estimates will continue on Thursday.

Sir JOHN COLOMB (Great Yarmouth): When are the Navy Estimates likely to be taken?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I am afraid I cannot tell my hon. and gallant friend.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): With reference to the course of business, I wish to ask the right hon. Gentleman a question. He is probably aware that notice has been given of a motion of a very important character on the question that Mr. Speaker leave the Chair on going into Committee of Supply on the Civil Service Estimates. Can he give us any idea when he proposes to move the Speaker out of the Chair on those Estimates? It will be essential to the convenience of a large number of Members interested that we should have adequate notice. Last year in a similar case the right hon. Gentleman was good enough to give us a week's notice.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I will do my very best to give notice. But I do not anticipate that, in any case, we shall propose to move Mr. Speaker out of the Chair on the Civil Service Estimates before the 25th March.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND: Will it be before Easter?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: It will be more convenient to get it done before Easter, but I cannot promise.

Mr. TULLY: I have an Amendment on the Report of Supply closured last Tuesday. If it is not to be taken to-night, can the right hon. Gentleman say when it will be taken?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I can only say it will not be taken to-night.

Mr. COURTENAY WARNER (Staffordshire, Lichfield): Arising out of the discussion as to the way in which the Army Estimates are to be taken, is the right hon. Gentleman aware that, when a similar arrangement was made on a former occasion, the Chairman of Committees ruled out of order any debate on details, because some of them had been mentioned in the discussion with Mr. Speaker in the Chair?

[No answer was given.]

Mr. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy Burghs): Cannot the right hon. Gentleman say when he proposes to take the Civil Service Supplementary Estimates?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: As soon as I get an opportunity.

EAST INDIA LOAN (GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY DEBENTURES).

Committee to consider of authorising the Secretary of State in Council of

India to raise money in the United Kingdom for paying off or redeeming Debentures of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company on the Security of the Revenues of India (King's Recommendation signified), To-morrow. (*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*)

CIVIL LIST.

Copy presented, of Accounts and Estimates relating to the Civil List [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

Paragraph in the King's Speech respecting the Civil List at the opening of Parliament, and His Majesty's Message of the fifth day of this instant March, read as follows:—

"*Gentlemen of the House of Commons,*

"The demise of the Crown renders it necessary that a renewed provision shall be made for the Civil List. I place unreservedly at your disposal those hereditary revenues which were so placed by My predecessor; and I have commanded that the Papers necessary for a full consideration of the subject shall be laid before you."

"EDWARD R.

"His Majesty being desirous of making competent provision for the honourable support and maintenance of His Son, the Duke of Cornwall and York, His Daughter-in-law, the Duchess of Cornwall and York, and His Daughters, the Princess Louise, Duchess of Fife, the Princess Victoria, and Princess Charles of Denmark, and being further desirous that similar provision should be made for Her Majesty the Queen in the event of Her surviving Him, and for the Duchess of Cornwall and York in the event of Her surviving the Duke of Cornwall and York, recommends the consideration thereof to His Majesty's faithful Commons, and relies on their attachment to adopt such measures as may be suitable to the occasion."

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir M. HICKS BEACH, Bristol, W.): It will be unnecessary for me to take up the time of the House in explaining the reasons why it is incumbent on the House to take some action on the gracious Message from the Throne which has just been read. I will simply quote the provisions of the Civil List of 1837, passed on the accession of Her late Majesty, by which it was declared, in precise conformity with similar Acts of previous reigns, that the several hereditary revenues of the Crown which had become payable to Her late Majesty on her accession should be carried to the Consolidated Fund for her life, and that in lieu thereof a fixed revenue should be paid to Her Majesty called the Civil List, but that on and after her decease this arrangement should end, and that the hereditary revenues should be payable to her heirs and successors—a period of six months, however, being allowed to elapse during which it would be possible for Parliament to make a fresh arrangement on this important matter.

As the House is aware, Sir, His Majesty the King has, in precise conformity with the course adopted by Queen Victoria, placed unreservedly at our disposal the hereditary revenues so placed by her; and it is therefore necessary for us to consider afresh, as at the commencement of the previous reign, the provision of the Civil List for the Crown. The provision made by the Act of 1889 for the children of His Majesty, then the Prince of Wales, lapses at the end of six months after the decease of Queen Victoria; and therefore we are also invited to deal with the position of the son and daughters of the King, which, in conformity with past practice, will be dealt with outside the Civil List, as well as the possibility that Her Majesty the Queen may survive His Majesty and the Duchess of Cornwall and York may survive the Duke of Cornwall and York. It is clear, I think, that Parliament must take some action in the present condition of affairs, and the only question it is necessary for me to bring before the House is the method of procedure we should adopt with regard to it. We have a series of precedents, which, even if there were no reasons in its favour, I think sufficiently dictate to us the course we should adopt. At the accession of William IV., and again at the accession of Her late Majesty, and lastly in 1889 on an analogous subject, the House of Commons decided to appoint a strong Select Committee to investigate the whole subject before any resolution was submitted to Parliament

It is not my intention this evening to state to the House the proposals which, on the responsibility of the Government, will be made with regard to the new Civil List. Those proposals will be made in the first instance to the Select Committee. The Committee will also have before it papers which I shall lay on the Table to-night, giving a full account in every detail of the amount of the expenditure of the Civil List during Her late Majesty's reign, and also of the net hereditary revenues received by the nation for the same time; and, further, the sums payable to the Sovereign and the Prince of Wales each year from the Duchy of Lancaster and the Duchy of Cornwall respectively. We shall produce to the Committee any further information bearing on this subject which they may desire; and, furnished with that information, they will be in a position to examine our proposals with the scrutiny which such proposals properly require and to report to the House. Their report will, of course, contain not merely their conclusions, but the information with which they have been supplied. On that report we shall base resolutions which will be submitted to the House and form the foundation of the Bill. I think it will be seen, therefore, that there will be full and ample opportunity for the discussion of the subject in the House of Commons as soon as the materials are placed before the House on which alone their conclusions can properly be based. I trust that when that time comes there will not be any wide difference of opinion among us.

Many subjects which in old times were matters of great controversy with regard to the Civil List have now disappeared. There were gross abuses on the Civil List in former days which have happily been removed; and now, I think, there is a universal agreement in this—that the Civil List shall not contain anything but that which is necessary for the proper maintenance of the dignity and state of the Crown, and also of the households of their Majesties. And, Sir, we also stand in a favourable position in one other respect to which I must briefly allude. In former reigns great and frequent applications were made to Parliament, after the Civil List had been fixed, for the payment of the debts of the Sovereign or of members of the Royal Family. Her late Majesty's Civil List was fixed sixty-four years ago; and, Sir, although it is a small matter among all that our nation owes to our late Queen, yet it will not be improper for me to remind the House on this occasion that during all these years—and in spite of the fact that during the later years of her reign her expenditure was greater than the revenue which Parliament had provided—not one application was made by our late Queen to Parliament for anything in addition to the Civil List provided by Parliament. If we may look back to the past with satisfaction—and it is a matter of no small importance as affecting the relations between the Crown, Parliament, and the people—I think we may also look to the future with confidence. His present Majesty has for many years occupied an exceptional position. For more than a generation he has, as Prince of Wales, from circumstances which will be fresh in our minds, had to perform to an exceptional extent the duties of Royalty, and that necessarily devolved upon him exceptional expenditure as compared with that which would be ordinarily required from the Heir-Apparent to the Crown. His annuity from Parliament was fixed more than thirty years ago; and that annuity, with the revenues of the Duchy, forming together an income not large when compared with the incomes of not a few private individuals among us, has proved sufficient for his present Majesty to perform all the exceptional duties to which I have referred in a manner for which he is entitled to the gratitude of the country, and to deal with all those who were in any way dependent upon him in a spirit of generous consideration for their comfort and welfare which has been an example to the nation at large. Therefore, though when the time comes for us to settle the precise terms of the fresh bargain, so to speak, which we have now to make with the Crown, there may be differences of opinion as to the sum which has to be provided, yet we may all agree in this—that the liberality of Parliament will not be abused.

There is another matter on which we may all agree, and that is the principle which should govern our action. The basis of our proposals will necessarily be the Civil List of her late Majesty, with such variations as the altered circumstances and the experience of more than sixty years may show to be necessary. Among these altered circumstances the most important is that his present Majesty is blessed with a Queen Consort who, ever since she first came among us from her northern home, has charmed the hearts of the people, and who is pre-eminently possessed of all those qualifications that can most adorn the social centre of the Empire. We shall remember, too, I think, with one accord that our King is not only King of the United Kingdom, but the head of a world-wide Empire. There may still be among us different theoretical opinions as to the best form of government; but surely none will deny that there never was a time when the constitutional monarchy was more universally popular in the Empire than the present, or that it is incumbent, as a matter of honour, upon the people to provide adequately for the dignity of the head of the State. And yet, Sir, I believe we shall all be agreed that this ought to be done without extravagance; for there is something in the quiet temper of our people which, though all of them would desire a splendid Court, would yet be entirely out of harmony with extravagant waste and mere senseless or useless display. Sir, we shall endeavour to make our proposals in that spirit—in a spirit of justice to the Crown on the one side, and to the people on the other; and I believe that, if they are found to be so framed, the taxpayers of this country will not grudge in the smallest degree to provide adequately and properly for the dignity and the honour of a Monarch who has been always personally popular among us, and who, by his every act and word since his accession has shown his desire and his capacity worthily to tread in the footsteps of the best and most beloved Queen that has ever reigned in this realm. I beg to move.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a Select Committee be appointed to consider so much of His Majesty's Speech to both Houses at the opening of Parliament as relates to the Civil List and His Majesty's Most Gracious Message of the 5th March relating to Grants to Her Majesty the Queen and Members of His Majesty's Family."—(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.*)

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): The course which the right hon. Gentleman suggests for the approval of the House is in accordance with the best recent precedents, and is recommended by a consideration for the dignity and convenience as well as for the interests of the House and of the country. I shall therefore say no more than that I beg to second the motion.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford) who had the following Amendment on the Paper—

> "That this House declines to take any steps in connection with the Civil List until His Majesty's Government announce their intention of introducing legislation to alter the declaration made by the Sovereign on ascending the Throne, such declaration being grossly offensive to His Majesty's Catholic subjects,"

said: As the members of the Irish party in this House decline to appoint any of their number to serve on this Committee, contrary to the practice in reference to the appointment of Committees in this House, I think it would be well that I should have the opportunity of explaining shortly to the House why they take up that attitude. I confess, Sir, for my part, it is a matter of regret that upon an occasion such as this we have been forced by the rules of order to bring up the question which is in my mind, but we have had no other course open to us. It was utterly impossible for us to be party to the appointment of this Committee, or to take any steps in connection with the Civil List, until we had some assurance that the declaration which was taken by the Sovereign on ascending the Throne, and which by, I think, universal admission is of a character grossly offensive to many millions of the subjects of this Empire, and to some hundreds of millions of Catholics throughout the world, was to be made the subject of review and amendment on the part of the Government.

*MR. SPEAKER: The Amendment which the hon. and learned Gentleman has placed upon the Paper will not be in order; and it follows that any observations addressed to the question whether the declaration made by His Majesty under statute ought or ought not to be repealed by Parliament will also be irrelevant and out of order.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: I bow at once to your ruling, but I am sure you will not think I am guilty of any disrespect to you when I say that I deeply regret that that ruling puts me in the position of having to offer opposition to the appointment of this Committee without being able to state the reasons. It may seem to some people a blind opposition. Of course, if the Government are in a position to announce any change of attitude on the question I have alluded to, the situation will be altered. I have seen a statement in the newspapers that such is the intention of His Majesty's Government. If they are in a position to make such an announcement, of course the difficulties with which I find myself faced will, to a very large extent, disappear, but failing the obtaining of a declaration of the character I have indicated from the Government, and as by the rules of order my mouth is shut from giving my reasons for the opposition, I can only fall back on opposition itself; and I beg to say that at every stage in regard to the appointment of the Committee, and every step taken in connection with the Civil List, I will offer a vigorous opposition, unless we obtain justice in this matter.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): I understand, Sir, from your ruling that it would be out of order to discuss the question of the Oath which has been taken by His Majesty according to statute, and which, of course, will not require to be taken again, even if the law remains unaltered, during the present reign. While it would be out of order to discuss that on the present motion, the hon. Gentleman has put to me a question as to the attitude of the Government. I do not know whether I am not going beyond, perhaps, what is usual in this House in referring to proceedings in the other House. But it is a fact, I understand, that the Prime Minister is to be asked in the other House whether the Government have any objection to appoint a Committee to inquire into the question of the Oath. So far as the Government are concerned no opposition to that Committee will be offered.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: What sort of Committee?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: A Committee on which, at all events, Peers of the hon. Gentleman's faith will be fully represented.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: Does the right hon. Gentleman mean a Committee of Peers only?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: So far as I am concerned I see no objection to a joint Committee. We shall offer no opposition if that is the desire.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: Then, Sir, in consequence of that statement I desire to say that while the Irish party will not take any part in serving on this Committee, and while we will not vote for it, under the circumstances we will abstain from voting against the appointment of the Committee, and reserve to ourselves the right, when the main question comes up for discussion on the Report of this Committee, to take what action we feel inclined to take, having, as we then will have, in our possession full information as to the proceedings of the Committee.

*MR. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil): The Chancellor of the Exchequer, in submitting this motion to the House, has justified it, among other reasons, on the ground that it is necessary to investigate the whole subject. The motion as framed will not permit of the whole subject being investigated, and it will not enable the whole of the facts of the case to be placed before the country. I will move to add the following words to the resolution as printed on the Paper: "And to prepare a Report to be presented to this House showing in detail every item of expenditure, including salaries, paid from public funds towards the support and maintenance of the Royal Family." I submit that motion for this reason chiefly—the Civil List does not, and does not pretend to, exhaust the expenditure upon the maintenance and support of the Royal Family. Even so astute an investigator as the right hon. Baronet the Member for the Forest of Dean had to confess himself puzzled in seeking to trace all the items which might properly be placed under the head of Royal expenditure. It may be, as the Chancellor of the Exchequer said, that there are differences of opinion as to the form the Head of the State should assume, but I think there will be no difference of opinion as to the desirability of presenting to the nation an honest and straightforward statement of the cost of maintaining the Head of the State, under whatever name he may be. When the proper moment arrives I will have something to say concerning the Crown lands alleged to be given in exchange for the Civil List. I may at this stage point out, in reply to the statement frequently made, that the late Civil List was the lowest ever paid to any Sovereign in this country, that such is not the case. The first Civil List framed—for William III.—provided that £700,000 should be set apart for the purposes of the Civil List; but Members, in comparing with that the £385,000 of the late Civil List, must not overlook the fact that, with the exception of the expenditure upon the Army and Navy, the £700,000 voted to William III. covered the entire cost of the civil government of the country. It was a sum voted not merely for the maintenance of Royalty, but, as its name implies, to cover the entire cost of the various departments of the civil administration. At the present time, anyone desirous of ascertaining the cost of the support and maintenance of the Royal Family has to search through the Civil List, annuities, pensions, salaries, expenditure upon yachts, and expenditure upon Royal trips, and various items which it is almost impossible to trace at all. For this reason I beg to submit the Amendment which I have read, its object being to secure a full and frank statement of account, which shall be presented to the nation, and without which this House is not in a position to settle the Civil List when the question comes before it. I beg to move.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.) formally seconded the Amendment.

Amendment proposed—

"At the end of the Question, to add the words 'and to prepare a Report for presentation to this House showing in detail every item of expenditure from public funds towards the support and maintenance of the Royal Family.'"—(*Mr. Keir Hardie.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there added."

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: I am not sure that I entirely appreciate what the hon. Member desires by adding these words to the motion, but I can assure him of this, that it is our intention to afford the fullest information to the Committee which any Member of it may desire on this subject. I happen to know, from a question asked by the hon. Member for Northampton of my right hon. friend near me, that his attention has been directed to what I understand to be the desire of the hon. Member. And as the hon. Member for Northampton is proposed to be a member of the Committee, I have no doubt he will request the information in Committee. I trust, therefore, it will not be necessary to press this Amendment.

MR. KEIR HARDIE: I understand that the desire expressed in the motion is already covered by the terms of the resolution. I have no desire to put the House to the trouble of a division, and if I am to understand from the right hon. Gentleman that the terms of the resolution are already wide enough to cover the object I have expressed, I will withdraw my Amendment.

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: Of course, I cannot be absolutely certain that the hon. Member will be satisfied.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Original Question put, and agreed to.

Ordered, That a Select Committee be appointed to consider so much of His Majesty's Speech to both Houses at the opening of Parliament as relates to the Civil List, and His Majesty's Most Gracious Message of the 5th March relating to Grants to Her Majesty the Queen and Members of His Majesty's Family.

Ordered, That the several Papers presented this day relating to the Civil List be referred to the Committee.

Ordered, That the Committee do consist of Twenty-one Members.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Mr. A. J. Balfour be a member of the said Committee."

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: Personally I have no objection whatever to the First Lord of the Treasury being a member of this Committee, as he probably is one of the persons most fitted to serve thereon, but I take this opportunity of saying that in my opinion the appointment of the right hon. Gentleman to serve on a Committee to deal with the expenditure of large sums of money every year is at the present time not appropriate, seeing that there are millions and millions of His Majesty's subjects dying of famine in India, and nothing is being done by the Government for them.

MR. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy Burghs): I think we might have some sort of explanation from the Leader of the House as to the lines upon which he has proceeded in the composition of this Committee. It is usual in Select Committees—although this, of course, is not a party question—that the Government should have a majority of one. It seems to me that the Committee ought to represent, more than it does, the different countries. This is practically an English Committee. Ireland has one member, Wales has no member at all, and Scotland has two members, one of whom is the Leader of the Opposition. Scotland, at all events, ought to be better represented, as the right hon. Gentleman the Member for the Stirling Burghs is on the Committee in his official capacity as Leader of the Opposition, so that we have only one unofficial member to represent the whole of Scotland. It seems to me that the Government should not be as well represented as they are, and I will even say that the Front Opposition Bench should not be so well represented. I do not wish to divide against the right hon. Gentleman's name being included, but I do desire to protest against the composition of the Committee.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I hope the hon. Member will not go away with the impression that any unusual machinery has been used in the appointment of this Committee. We have followed the ordinary practice. The Government do not appoint the Committee. It is appointed by machinery with which the hon. Gentleman is thoroughly acquainted. The majority of Welsh Members sit on the other side of the House, and their interests should be looked after by right hon. Gentlemen opposite.

*MR. TENNANT (Berwickshire): The right hon. Gentleman has said nothing about Scotland. I rose for the purpose of opposing my hon. friend on the ground that the right hon. Gentleman is a most admirable representative of Scotland, although he has the misfortune to be an English Member. But I do think Scotland has not been well treated in this matter, and that the Committee of Selection might have thought fit to propose some other Member from the country to which I have the honour to belong.

MR. BRYNMOR JONES (Swansea District): As the First Lord of the Treasury has referred to the fact that the Welsh Members have made no complaint about the composition of this Committee——

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I did not say so.

MR. BRYNMOR JONES: I think so.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: What I said was that, as the House knows, we on this side of the House do not interfere with the selection of Members on the other side. The majority of Welsh Members are on that side of the House, and therefore their interests, if they have been neglected, which I do not at all admit, should have been looked after by gentlemen sitting on that side of the House, not on this.

MR. BRYNMOR JONES: That is exactly the fact I was leading up to. The Welsh Members are satisfied, because my right hon. friend the Member for West Monmouth and my hon. friend the Member for North Monmouth are to be Members of the Committee, and they look upon that as an admission that Monmouthshire is in future to be regarded as a part of Wales.

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.): Will this be a private Committee, and will a record be kept?

SIR M. HICKS BEACH: The ordinary record will be kept, but the proceedings will, of course, be of a private nature.

Question put, and agreed to.

Motion made, and Question, "That Mr. Bartley, Sir John Brunner, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir Frederick Dixon-Hartland, Sir William Hart-Dyke, Sir Henry Fowler, Sir William Harcourt be other Members of the said Committee," put, and agreed to.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Sir Samuel Hoare be one other Member of the said Committee."

MR. DALZIEL: I need scarcely say that I have no personal objection to the hon. Gentleman whose name is now proposed. Under ordinary circumstances he would be a most excellent member of the Committee. The right hon. Gentleman represents an English constituency, and my sole object in opposing his selection is to move the insertion of the name of the hon. Member for Berwickshire as representing Scotland.

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member cannot move the insertion of a name. Names cannot be moved without notice.

MR. DALZIEL: Then I beg to move the omission.

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member need not move the omission. He can negative the motion.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 300; Noes, 25. (Division List No. 52.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allen, Charles P (Glouc., Stroud
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn Herbert Henry
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Joceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John Geo. Alexander
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A.J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (Leeds)
Banbury, Frederick George
Barry, Sir Francis T. (Windsor)
Bartley, George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol
Beach, Rt. Hon. W. W. B (Hants
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Beckett, Ernest William
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Boulnois, Edmund
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex)
Bowles, T. Gibson (King's Lynn)
Brand, Hon. Arthur G.
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Brown, Alex. H. (Shropshire
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon J. (Birm.
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc.
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coddington, Sir William
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir J. Charles Ready
Colston, Chas. E. H. Athole
Cook, Frederick Lucas
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasg'w
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Craig, Robert Hunter
Cranborne, Viscount
Cremer, William Randal
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cross, H. Shepherd (Bolton)
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dewar, T R (T'r Hmlets, St. Geo.
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dimsdale, Sir Joseph Cockfield
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred. D.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Douglas, Chas. M. (Lanark)
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Duke, Henry Edward
Duncan, James H.
Dunn, Sir William
Dyke, Rt. Hon Sir William Hart
Edwards, Frank
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Ellis, John Edward
Emmott, Alfred
Evans, Sir F. H. (Maidstone)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J (Manc'r
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
Fitzroy, Hon. Edward A.
Flannery, Sir Fortescue

Fletcher, Sir Henry
Foster, Sir Walter(Derby Co.)
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hon. Vicary(St. Albans
Gladstone.RtHn.HerbertJohn
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gordon,Hn.J.E.(Elgin&Nairn
Gordon,MajEvans-(T'rH'ml'ts
Gorst,Rt. Hon. Sir JohnEldon
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Grant, Corrie
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, Sir E. W.(BurySt. Ed.
Gretton, John
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Gunter, Colonel
Hain, Edward
Haldane, Richard Burdon
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hamilton,Rt.HnLordG(Mid'x
Hamilton,Marqof(L'nd'nderry
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm.
Hardie, J. K. (Merthyr Tydvil
Hardy, L. (Kent, Ashford)
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris,F.Leverton(Tynem'th)
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayne,Rt.Hon. Charles Seale-
Heaton, John Henniker
Helme, Norval Watson
Hoare,Ed.Brodie(Hampstead)
Hobhouse,C.E. H. (Bristol,E.)
Hobhouse,Henry(Somerset,E.
Hogg, Lindsay
Holland, William Henry
Hope,J.F(Sheffield,Brightside
Horner, Frederick William
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Hy.
Hoult, Joseph
Howard,J.(Midd.,Tottenham)
Hozier, Hon. Jas. Henry Cecil
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Jones,David Brynmor(Sw'ns'a
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennaway,Rt.Hon.SirJohnH.
Kenyon-Slaney,Col. W.(Salop.
Kimber, Henry
Kinloch, Sir John Geo. Smyth
Knowles, Lees
Labouchere, Henry
Lambert, George
Lambton, Hon. Fred. Wm.
Lawson, John Grant
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lecky, Rt. Hon. Wm. Ed. H.
Lee,Capt.AH(Hants,Fareham
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leighton, Stanley
Leng, Sir John

Leveson-Gower, Fred. (N. S.
Levy, Maurice
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Col. Chas. (Evesham)
Long,Rt.Hn. Walter (Bristol,S
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther,Rt.Hn. James(Kent)
Lowther,RtHnJW(Cum.Penr
Lucas,Col.Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas,Reginald J.(Portsm'th)
Macartney,Rt.Hn.WGEllison
Macdona, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
M'Iver,SirLewis(EdinburghW
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Laren, Charles Benjamin
Malcolm, Ian
Markham, Arthur Basil
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Mather, William
Maxwell,RtHnSirHE(Wigton
Maxwell,W.J.H.(Dumfriessh
Mellor,Rt. Hon. John William
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
Milward, Colonel Victor
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
More, Robert J. (Shropshire)
Morgan, J. L. (Carmarthen)
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
Mount, William Arthur
Muntz, Philip A.
Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
Murray, Col. Wyndham(Bath)
Myers, William Henry
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer, Sir Chas.M.(Durham)
Palmer, Geo. Wm. (Reading)
Palmes, Walter (Salisbury)
Pease, H. Pike (Darlington)
Pemberton, John S. G.
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, John Wynford
Pickard, Benjamin
Pilkington, Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Price, Robert John
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Reid, James (Greenock)

Renshaw, Charles Bine
Rentoul, James Alexander
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. C. Thomson
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Rothschild,Hon.LionelWalter
Round, James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W.
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Saunderson,Rt.Hn.Col.Edw.J
Scott,Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seely, Charles Hilton(Lincoln)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Sinclair,Capt.John (Forfarsh.)
Smith,AbelH.(Hertford, East)
Smith, JamesParker(Lanarks)
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Smith, Hon.W. F. D. (Strand)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer,Rt.Hn.CR(Northants
Stanley,Edw. Jas. (Somerset)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stevenson, Francis S.
Strachey, Edward
Stroyan, John
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot,Rt.HnJ.G.(Oxf'dUniv
Thomas,F.Freeman-(Hastings
Thomas,JA(GlamorganGower
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Thornton, Percy M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tufnell, Col. Edward
Valentia, Viscount
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Wason, Jn. Cathcart (Orkney
Welby,Lt.-Col.ACE(Taunton)
Wharton, Rt.Hon.JohnLloyd
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Williams,Osmond (Merioneth)
Williams,RtHnJ Powell-(B'm
Wills, Sir Frederick
Wilson,FredW.(Norfolk, Mid)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson,J.W.(Worcestersh. N.
Wodehouse,Hn.Armine(Essex
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C.B.Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young,Commander(Berks,E.)
TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Black, Alexander William
Brown, GeorgeM.(Edinburgh)
Caine, William Sproston

Caldwell, James
Crombie, John William
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Elibank, Master of

Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Hemphill, Rt. Hon.CharlesH.
Jacoby, James Alfred

Lewis, John Herbert
Morton, Edw.J.C.(Devonport)
Pirie, Duncan V.
Reid,SirR.Threshie(Dumfries
Scott, Charles P. (Leigh)
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Sullivan, Donal
Tennant, Harold John
Wallace, Robert
Weir, James Galloway
Whiteley, G. (York, W. R.)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Dalziel and Mr. Eugene Wason.

Ordered, That Mr. Jackson be one other Member of the Committee.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Sir James Kitson be one other Member of the Committee."—(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.*)

*MR. KEIR HARDIE said he rose to move the omission of the name of Sir James Kitson. In the event of this name being omitted he wished to give notice that he would move to insert the name of the hon. Member for Battersea. He thought that it would be universally accepted by the House that there should be one direct representative of the working classes on the Committee, and he knew of no one who better represented the working classes than his hon. colleague and friend the Member for Battersea. He understood that Sir James Kitson had been nominated for the Committee by the Opposition. He was surprised that the Opposition in nominating Members of the Committee should have overlooked such representatives of labour as the hon. Member for Battersea and the hon. Member for Normanton, to whom they owed so much.

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 307 ; Noes, 17. (Division List No. 53.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood,Capt.SirAlex.F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Asher, Alexander
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Asquith, RtHn.HerbertHenry
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot,Capt.Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour,Rt.Hon.A.J.(Manch'r
Balfour,RtHn.GeraldW(Leeds
Banbury, Frederick George
Barry,SirFrancisT.(Windsor)
Bartley, George C. T.
Bathurst,Hon.AllenBenjamin
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Beach,RtHn.SirM.H.(Bristol)
Beach,Rt.Hn.W.W.B.(Hants.
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Beckett, Ernest William
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Boulnois, Edmund
Bowles,Capt.H.F.(Middlesex)
Bowles,T.Gibson(King's Lynn
Brand, Hon. Arthur G.
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. Sir John
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Brown,AlexanderH.(Shropsh.
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bryce, Rt Hon. James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Burns, John
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caine, William Sproston
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish,V.C.W.(Derbysh.)
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain,Rt.Hn. J.(Birm.
Chamberlain,J.Austen(Worc'r
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H.A.E.
Coddington, Sir William
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen,Benjamin L.
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Chas. Ready
Colston, Chas. Edw. H.Athole
Cook, Frederick Lucas
Corbett, A.Cameron(Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cox, Irwin Edw. Bainbridge
Craig, Robert Hunter
Cranborne, Viscount
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Crombie, John William
Cross, Herb.Shepherd (Bolton)
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davies,SirHoratioD.(Chathm
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh)
Dewar, TR(T'rH'mlets,S.Geo.
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dimsdale, Sir Jos. Cockfield
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dixon-Hartland, SirFd.Dixon
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Douglas, Chas. M. (Lanark)
Doxford, Sir Wm. Theodore
Dunn, Sir William
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Dyke, Rt.Hn.SirWilliamHart
Edwards, Frank
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Elliot,Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Ellis, John Edward
Evans, Sir FrancisH.(Maidst.)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Fellowes, Hn. Ailwyn Edward
Fenwick, Charles
Fergusson,Rt.Hn.SirJ(Manc'r
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
FitzGerald,SirRobertPenrose-
Fitzroy,Hn.Edward Algernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hn. Vicary (St. Albans)
Gladstone, Rt.Hn. Herb. John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gordon,Hn.J.E.(Elgin&Nairn
Gordon, Maj. E. (T'r H'mlets)
Gorst,Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Green,WalfordD(Wednesbury
Greene,SirEW (B'rySEdm'nds
Gretton, John
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Gunter, Colonel
Hain, Edward
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hamilton,RtHnLordG(Mid'x.
Hamilton,Marq.of(L'nd'nd'rry
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm.

Hardy, Laurence (K'nt, Ashf'rd
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harris, F Leverton (Tynemouth
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Heaton, John Henniker
Helme, Norval Watson
Hermon-Hodge, Robt. Trotter
Hoare, Edw. Brodie (Hampstd.
Hobhouse, Henry (Somerset, E.
Hogg, Lindsay
Holland, William Henry
Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightsd.
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Horner, Frederick William
Houldsworth, Sir William H.
Hoult, Joseph
Howard, J. (Mid., Tottenham)
Hozier, Hon. James H. Cecil
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, David Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
Kenyon, Hn. G. T. (Denbigh)
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W (Salop)
Kimber, Henry
Knowles, Lees
Lambert, George
Lambton, Hon. Frederick W.
Lawson, John Grant
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lecky, Rt. Hon. Wm. E. H.
Lee, Capt. A H (Hants, Fareham
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leighton, Stanley
Leng, Sir John
Leveson-Gower, Fred N. S.
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham
Long, Rt. Hn. W. (Bristol, S.)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, Rt. Hon. Jas. (Kent
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth
Macartney, Rt. Hn. W G Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (Edinb'h, W.)
M'Kenna, Reginald

M'Laren, Charles Benjamin
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Markham, Arthur Basil
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Mather, William
Maxwell, Rt. Hn Sir H E (Wigt'n
Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfriessh.
Mellor, Rt. Hn. John Wm.
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
Middlemore, Jn. Throgmorton
Milward, Colonel Victor
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropsh.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford
Mount, William Arthur
Muntz, Philip A.
Murray, Rt Hn A Graham (Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Myers, William Henry
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer, Sir C. M. (Durham)
Palmer, George W. (Reading)
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Pease, Herbert P. (Darlington)
Pemberton, John S. G.
Penn, John
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, John Wynford
Pilkington, Richard
Pirie, Duncan V.
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Price, Robert John
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Reckitt, Harold James
Renshaw, Charles Bine
Rentoul, James Alexander
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Charles T.
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Ropner, Col. Robert
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel W.
Round, James

Royds, Clement Molyneux
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Saunderson, Rt. Hn. Col. E. J.
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seely, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfarsh.
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, E.)
Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer, Rt. Hn. C R (N'rthants.
Stanley, Edward Jas. (Somerset
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stevenson, Francis S.
Stroyan, John
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Uni.
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Thornton, Percy M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tufnell, Col. Edward
Valencia, Viscount
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Wason, E. (Clackmannan)
Wason, John C. (Orkney)
Welby, Lt.-Col. A C E (Taunton
Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whiteley, Geo. (York, W. R.)
Whiteley, H. (Ashton-u.-Lyne
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williams, Rt Hn J. Powell- (Bir.
Wills, Sir Frederick
Wilson, Fred. W. (Norfolk, Mid
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.
Wodehouse, Hn. Armine (Essex
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Allen, Chas. P. (Glouc., Stroud
Brown, George M. (Edinburgh)
Caldwell, James
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Elibank, Master of
Grant, Corrie
Jacoby, James Alfred

Kinloch, Sir John George Smyth
Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
Murphy, J.
Pickard, Benjamin
Russell, T. W.
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Smith, Samuel (Flint)

Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, J A (Glamorg'n, Gower
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES
Mr. Keir Hardie and Mr.
Cremer.

Ordered, That Mr. Labouchere, Mr. Macartney, Mr. M'Kenna, Mr. Mildmay, Mr. Renshaw, Mr. W. F. D. Smith, Mr. Stevenson, Mr. Warr, and Mr. Wharton be other Members of the Committee.

Ordered, That Five be the quorum.—(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.*)

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE (REPORTS OF MONEY COMMITTEES).

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I beg now to move the Sessional Order which stands in my name. This is a Sessional Order which has been in force for many years in the House, and for the last six years it has been immediately passed without discussion or division. It is a necessary rule in cases in which special arrangements have to be made. The effect of it will be, not to increase the twenty-three days allotted to Supply, including Report of Supply, but to extend the length of time that will be available for the discussions by exempting them from the operation of the Twelve o'clock Rule. It has worked well in the past under different Administrations and under different conditions.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Proceedings on the Reports of the Committees of Supply and Ways and Means and other Committees authorising the expenditure of public money may be entered upon at any hour though opposed, and shall not be interrupted under the provisions of any Standing Order regulating the Sittings of the House, except of Standing Order No. 5."—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

*MR. JOHN ELLIS (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe) said that this was another of the rather numerous interferences by the Leader of the House with the Standing Orders. The House had only been sitting some twenty days, and there had already been five motions by the right hon. Gentleman interfering with or suspending the Standing Orders. He appreciated all that the right hon. Gentleman had said in regard to the motion having been passed more or less without discussion during the last six years. The right hon. Gentleman spoke of the Twelve o'clock Rule, but really there was no such rule. He remembered very well when they were discussing the Standing Order that the right hon. the Member for Wolverhampton pointed out what would happen, namely, that the House would accept the Standing Order as meaning an adjournment at twelve o'clock, and that that would produce inconvenience so far as urgent business was concerned. The prediction of the right hon. Gentleman had been amply fulfilled. They had put into the hands of any one of the 670 Members the possibility and power of stopping all business after twelve o'clock. Of course the Government found that that was a state of things that they could not put up with for a moment; and the Amendment was to take away from the individual Member the power of stopping business at twelve o'clock. They could all understand that the right hon. Gentleman moved the Amendment in the interest of a certain class of business which must be got through by the 31st March. This was an altogether exceptional session. Everybody knew that finance would dominate this session, and possibly the next, to the exclusion of everything else. They would have to deal with the most extraordinary and unparalleled demands on the part of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, on the purse of the taxpayer, and every other subject would practically be set aside. The Report of Supply was one of the opportunities of criticising the Administration.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: This motion, if I might interrupt the hon. Member, is to increase and not to diminish the amount of time given by the Government.

*MR. JOHN ELLIS said he had noticed there fell from the Chair the other afternoon at question time an intimation that certain matters ought to be dealt with in Supply rather than by question and answer. Now, by the motion it was suggested that these discussions should go on through the small hours of the morning. The right hon. Gentleman said he was increasing the time for discussion, but if so he was doing so after midnight, and there were other ways of doing it without such a course.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I am afraid I did not make it quite clear when I spoke just now, but I think I can make it so. In the session there are only twenty-three days for Supply, including Report of Supply. Those twenty-three days, if you commence Supply at four o'clock, only contain eight hours each between that time and twelve o'clock. If you pass this rule the hours of those twenty-three days will be increased, which is a pure gain to the House for discussion and criticism of the Government.

*MR. JOHN ELLIS said that when in Opposition the Leader of the House once declared this very motion to be a considerable interference with the ancient privileges of Supply, and so it was. He acknowledged the need of the resolution up to Easter, and with that object he moved an Amendment limiting the application of the motion "until Easter."

DR. FARQUHARSON (Aberdeenshire, W.) formally seconded the Amendment.

Amendment proposed—

"After the first word 'That,' to insert the words 'until Easter.'"—(*Mr. John Ellis.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'until Easter' be there inserted."

MR. JAMES LOWTHER (Kent, Thanet) said he viewed with some jealousy any attempt to override the letter and spirit of what was known as the Twelve o'clock Rule, and the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the House, owing to the force of circumstances, had been a very great offender in this respect. The right hon. Gentleman said that by the House sitting until two or three in the morning it would derive two or three hours benefit for the discussion of financial business.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: No, no; the House, in the one case, will have twenty-three days for the discussion of Supply. If you do not pass this rule you will have no more, but if the rule is passed the hours of those days will be increased.

MR. JAMES LOWTHER said the right hon. Gentleman appeared to think he was conferring a benefit on the House by allowing it to sit up to the small hours of the morning. He did not think so. His main object, however, in rising was to ask the right hon. Gentleman to give an assurance similar to that which had been extracted from him on former occasions, that Supply, excluding the Report, should should not be continued after twelve o'clock. What everyone desired was to make it clear that twelve o'clock was the hour when opposed business came to a conclusion in the House. Financial business ought not to be restricted, but at the same time it was not necessary that it should be contracted. Sitting to these late hours was contrary to the principles of conducting business in the House, and the constant suspension of the Twelve o'clock Rule was really becoming a crying evil, and one which every Member ought to vote against.

MR. T. M. HEALY strongly supported the Amendment. He assumed that the Civil List Committee would be one of the "other Committees authorising the expenditure of public money," and it would be an extraordinary thing if the House was to continue to discuss every matter arising out of that Committee after midnight. The Government ought to give an undertaking that all Civil List matters, which necessarily were of great importance, should not be brought under this rule. One reason which inclined him strongly to support the Amendment was that only three days was allowed for the discussion of Irish Supply, and, owing to the procedure last week, a great many Irish Estimates had not been discussed, and the only opportunity left was upon Report of Supply; but in the last two sessions not an Irish Member was allowed to open his mouth upon the subject. They were not allowed to discuss, for instance, the way in which the Royal Irish Constabulary was conducted. Let the House consider what it would mean if hon. Members were not allowed to discuss the Navy and the Army. Yet the Irish were not allowed to discuss the Royal Irish Constabulary, which was a sign of British rule in Ireland. In former times the Government always put down Report of Supply at a reasonable hour; the present resolution was an attempt on the part of the Government to commence discussion on Report of Supply after twelve o'clock. Members did not realise how many Irish items were undiscussed by this procedure. The result of the system was that owing to the way Irish Supply was put down, the whole twenty-three days was exhausted without any discussion taking place upon it, and the whole of Irish Supply upon Report stage was dealt with after twelve o'clock, which meant that Irish Members had no opportunity of criticising this expenditure. He complained of the way in which their opportunities were curtailed, and thought that if they were to be curtailed in the future as they had been in the past, and were being now, it would be cheaper and easier to exclude the Irish Members altogether. That was a motion he would heartily support, because it was a mockery to bring Members over from Ireland to discuss Irish matters, and give them no opportunity for doing so except at irregular times, in an irregular manner, which must give in the end irregular results. If the Government were not prepared to accept the Amendment, they should give some explanation for not doing so. In his opinion they had reached the limit of taxation, and the motion was to stifle discussion. The result was that the House was losing all control over money matters, and had to abide by the decision of Ministers. One occasionally noticed protests against monarchy, but monarchy was tolerable compared with oligarchy, and he did not know whether if there were a British Republic, with Lord Salisbury as its first President, the country would be much better off than under Edward VII.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis), said that the right hon. Gentleman had presented the resolution to the House as a perfectly harmless, innocuous, and, indeed, profitable resolution. So far as the House of Commons was concerned, he had pointed out that there were only twenty-three days for Supply, including the Report stage, and that whatever on the last of those twenty-three days had not been discussed would be guillotined and taken as reported. That might be true, but there were two other matters connected with the resolution which the right hon. Gentleman had not touched upon. The resolution proposed to give to Parliament hours for discusson which Parliament had excluded as being improper. There was also a Committee authorising the expenditure of public money which had nothing to do with Supply—the Ways and Means Committee. The Civil List Committee was one of those which this session would be included in the term "other Committees authorising the expenditure of public money." Surely that was not a matter that should be treated in this way. He did not anticipate any difficulty in that matter, but, of coursel there were many stages to go through. First of all there was the Select Committee and then there was the Committee of the House. It was a matter of absolutely the first importance, and no opportunity ought to be lightly given away by the House of Commons for its discussion according to the ancient rules of the House. Not only had the Civil List to be fully and adequately discussed in the Committee of the whole House, but the Report should also be taken at an hour which would show proper respect for the Sovereign. The Government had already taken away the immrmorial right of moving Amendments on going into Committee of Ways and Means. Last Monday, when they were entering upon the course of shutting down one after another the safety valves of the House, he warned them that they would have an explosion, and on Tuesday the explosion came. The Government were now proposing to shut another safety valve. The Report of the Committee on Ways and Means would this year have an importance which it had never had before in that House. It was in the Committee of Ways and Means that the Budget would be moved. If ever there was an occasion on which the House ought still to jealously preserve the right of discussing financial questions surely it was this year. He did not know what new taxes—perhaps protective taxes, which were favoured by his right hon. friend the Member for Isle of Thanet—were to be proposed. He really thought the Leader of the House ought not to ask them to give up the opportunity for discussing at proper hours the Report of the Committee on

Ways and Means. As to the Amendment before the House, he did not care twopence about it. It was not a question of applying the motion before or after Easter. He looked at this matter as it affected the facilities afforded to private and unofficial Members to do their duty to their constituents. He deeply deplored the successive shutting down of all these safety valves, and he regretted that the Government had found it necessary to propose this motion.

MR. BLAKE (Longford, S.) said the right hon. Gentleman the First Lord of the Treasury had treated this motion as if it had nothing to do with anything but the Committee of Supply.

*MR. SPEAKER said the Amendment before the House was limited entirely to the operation of the Twelve o'clock Rule before Easter.

MR. BLAKE said he was pursuing the course pursued by the hon. Members for North Louth and King's Lynn.

*MR. SPEAKER said the hon. Gentleman was now discussing the main question. Of course it would be in order to discuss that afterwards, but he thought they had better dispose of the question before the House first.

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 151 ; Noes, 254. (Division List No. 54.)

AYES.

Allan, William (Gateshead)
Allen, Chas. P. (Glouc., Stroud)
Ambrose, Robert
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Atherley-Jones, L.
Barlow, John Emmott
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Black, Alexander William
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brand, Hon. Arthur G.
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, George M. (Edinburgh)
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, John
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caine, William Sproston
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Carew, James Laurence
Carvill, Patrick Geo. Hamilton
Causton, Richard Knight
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Delany, William
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, James H.
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank
Elibank, Master of
Emmott, Alfred
Evans, Sir Francis H (Maidstn'e
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.
Furness, Sir Christopher
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Haldane, Richard Burdon
Hammond, John
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Healy, Timothy Michael
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (Bristol, E.)
Holland, William Henry
Jacoby, James Alfred
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, D. Brynmor (Swansea)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennedy, Patrick James
Kinloch, Sir John George Smyth
Labouchere, Henry
Lambert, George
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leng, Sir John
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lowther, Rt. Hn. Jas. (Kent)
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Laren, Charles Benjamin
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mather, William
Mellor, Rt. Hn. John William
Mooney, John J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
Moulton, John Fletcher
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Md
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, Jas. (Roscommon, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.

Palmer, Sir Charles M (Durham
Palmer, George Wm. (Reading)
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, John Wynford
Pickard, Benjamin
Pirie, Duncan V.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, Robert John

Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Reid, Sir R. Threshie (Dumfries)
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Roche, John

Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Stevenson, Francis S.
Strachey, Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, A. (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, J A (Glamorgan, Gow'r
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Tully, Jasper
Wallace, Robert
Walton, John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan

Weir, James Galloway
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wodehouse, Hon. A. (Essex)
Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Mr. John Ellis and Dr. Farquharson.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John Geo. Alexander
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)
Balfour, Maj. K. R. (Christch'h)
Banbury, Frederick George
Barry, Sir Francis T. (Windsor)
Bartley, George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen B.
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol
Beach, Rt. Hon. W. W. B. (Hants
Beckett, Ernest William
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Col. Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Boulnois, Edmund
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex)
Bowles, T. Gibson (King's Lynn
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, Col. Montagu
Brown, Alex. H. (Shropshire)
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Bull, William James
Bullard, Sir Harry
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coddington, Sir William
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir J. Charles Ready
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Corbett, A. C. (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cox, Irwin Edw. Bainbridge
Cranborne, Viscount
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Cross, H. Shepherd (Bolton)
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)
Dewar, T. R. (T'r H'mlets S. Geo.
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dimsdale, Sir J. Cockfield
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred. D.
Dorington, Sir John Edward
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Dyke, Rt. Hon Sir William Hart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J (Manc'r
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
Fitzroy, Hon. Edward Algernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Forster, Henry William
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hn A. G. H. (City of Lond.
Gibbs, Hn. Vicary (St. Albans)
Gladstone, Rt Hn. Herbert J.
Gordon, Hn. J. E (Elgin & Nairn
Gordon, Maj. E. - (T'r Hamlets)
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Green, Walford D (Wednesbury
Greene, Sir E W (B'ry S Edm'nds
Gretton, John
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Gunter, Colonel
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hain, Edward
Hall, Edward Marshall
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G. (Mid'x
Hamilton, Marq. of (L'nderry
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm.
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashf'rd
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, F. Leverton (Tynem'th
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hermon-Hodge, Robert Trotter
Hoare, Edw. Brodie (Hampsd.
Hobhouse, Hy. (Somerset, E.)
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Horner, Frederick William
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Hoult, Joseph
Howard, J. (Mid., Tottenham)
Hozier, Hon. James Hy. Cecil
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Jessel. Cap. Herbert Merton
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (Denbigh)
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop
Kimber, Henry
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Knowles, Lees
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lawson, John Grant
Lee, Capt A H. (Hants. Fareham
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leighton, Stanley
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham
Long, Rt Hn Walter (Bristol, S.)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsm'th)
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macartney, Rt Hn W. G. Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (Edinburgh W
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Maple, Sir John Blundell
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell, Rt Hn Sir H. E (Wigt'n
Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfriessh.
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
Middlemore, John Throgmort'n
Milward, Colonel Victor
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford
Mount, William Arthur
Muntz, Philip A.
Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham (Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath
Myers, William Henry
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Parker, Gilbert
Pease, Herbert P. (Darlington
Peel, Hon. Wm. Robert W.
Pemberton, John S. G.
Penn, John
Pilkington, Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert

Pym, C. Guy
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Renshaw, Charles Bine
Rentoul, James Alexander
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel W.
Round, James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W.
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Saunderson, Rt. Hn. Col. E. J.
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.
Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln
Seton-Karr, Henry
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfarsh.
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand
Spencer, Rt. Hn. C R (Northants
Spencer, Ernest (W. Bromwich
Stanley, Edward Jas. (Somerset
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hon. Humphrey Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Uni.
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Thornton, Percy M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tufnell, Col. Edward
Valentia, Viscount
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E.
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Wason, John C. (Orkney)
Webb, Colonel William George
Welby, Lt.-Col. A C E (Taunton
Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
Whiteley, H. (Ashton-u.-Lyne
Wills, Sir Frederick
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

MR. BLAKE said the proposal of the right hon. Gentleman was absolutely inadequate. It had been proved to demonstration that twenty-three days were absolutely inadequate for the orderly discussion of these matters, and as there was not time to discuss them in that period, they were told that they must find hours after midnight to carry on the business. They had to remember that the Votes in Supply this session would probably be of unexampled extent, and in many respects would be special and peculiar. They had to remember that the discussion on the Report was of a very important character. It represented the sober second thought of the House. It was unfortunate in such a session that a motion should be proposed requiring that the discussion should take place at untimely and unseemly hours, for that was practically what it meant. It was a proposal that the discussion should take place at a time when it was practically impossible that it could be effective. The situation of the country with reference to Ways and Means was of the most serious character. They knew the extent of the expenditure, but they did not know in the slightest degree the methods by which it was to be met, and to say beforehand that the discussion on the Report of the Committee on Ways and Means was to be taken at two, three, or four in the morning, was much more serious this session than it would be when ordinary Budgets were presented.

MR. LABOUCHERE (Northampton) said he was opposed entirely to the new rule. If it was to be pressed it was desirable that it should, to a certain extent be amended. In 1837, when the Chancellor of the Exchequer of the day moved the appointment of a Committee on the Civil List, he stated to the House what the proposals of the Government would be. He contended that the House would not have a full opportunity of discussing the Bill if they were obliged to take it at two or three o'clock in the morning, as business was done in a very perfunctory fashion at that hour. He therefore moved to omit the words "and of other Committees authorising the expenditure of public money."

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carnarvon Boroughs) in seconding the Amendment considered that in a session which was to be practically a financial session, the opportunities of criticising the expenditure of public money, instead of being limited should be increased. There were to be a war bill of practically £90,000,000, an enormous increase in the normal expenditure upon the Army, a considerable increase of the expenditure upon the Navy, and a Budget Bill almost unparalleled in the financial history of the country. Two things characterised the management of public affairs by the present Government: firstly, the enormous increase in public expenditure; and, secondly, the greatly diminished opportunities for discussing that expenditure. Hardly a session had passed since their accession to office but the First Lord had set up some new precedent for limiting discussion; and no Leader had ever dared so much to crib, cabin, and confine the House of Commons in the exercise of its primary function and duty. It was absurd to say that matters could be discussed after 12 o'clock. Such discussion was really no discussion at all, as it was absolutely ineffective in calling public attention to the questions considered. The First Lord was nullifying the effect of his favourite weapon, as on the one hand he applied the closure, and on the other he advised the House to discuss questions after 12 o'clock. After midnight the House was not in full command of its temper or faculties, and to press important business after that hour was simply to provoke a repetition of the scenes recently experienced. The First Lord did not gain wisdom from experience, but was insisting on perpetuating that state of things which had been condemned by one of the most disgraceful scenes the House of Commons or any other House had ever witnessed.

Amendment proposed—

"In line 3, to leave out the words 'and other Committees authorising the expenditure of public money.'"—(*Mr. Labouchere.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The hon. Member has ranged over a great variety of topics, and concluded with some observations with regard to the curtailment of discussion on expenditure. I do not know what discussion of expenditure the hon. Gentleman had in his mind when he used that argument. I have already pointed out to the House that so far as the ordinary opportunities of discussing expenditure are concerned the rule as it stands is in addition to those advantages, and not in limitation of them. The hon. Gentleman's observation therefore seemed to be singularly wide of the mark. But all that is apart from the criticism of the hon. Member for South Longford and that of the hon. Member who moved the Amendment. Those hon. Members were not dealing with criticism of Supply or on Report of Supply. The hon. Member for South Longford was concerned as to the Report stage generally of all Money Bills, and the hon. Member for Northampton was distinctly concerned, as I understood him, about the Civil List. What invasion of the privileges of Members does this rule carry with it? We are not discussing Committee of Supply; we are taking those Committees in which a Bill is introduced. Take the Civil List. What opportunities will the House have with or without this Amendment of discussing the Civil List? The Bill will have to be introduced in a Money Committee; that Committee will no doubt stand first Order of the Day, and will be open to the full discussion which such a position gives. The Report of that Money Committee may be taken after twelve o'clock, and my hon. friend the Member for King's Lynn appeared to think that that was an invasion of the ancient privileges and practice of this House. But under the old conditions everything could be discussed after twelve o'clock, and so far as this motion of mine has any effect at all on the procedure of the House it is reverting to the ancient practice of discussing the Report stage of these Committees after twelve o'clock.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: There was no closure then.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: What relation has that to my argument? My argument is that this Amendment of mine, instead of diminishing opportunities of discussion, is restoring to the House the old opportunities of which I am accused of robbing them. The Budget has been referred to. The Budget will be introduced in Committee of Ways and Means. It will be discussed in Committee of Ways and Means, then on the Report of that Committee, then on the Second Reading of the Budget Bill, then in Committee, then, if there is any alteration, on Report, and finally on Third Reading. There are thus five stages upon which the Budget can be discussed, and all the present resolution does is to say that one of those stages may be taken after twelve o'clock. This is the invasion of ancient privileges which has provoked the philippics of the hon. Gentleman opposite! It appears to me that the course we are taking is one eminently for the convenience of the House, and I trust it will, without further discussion, be agreed to.

MR. FLYNN (Cork, N.) believed the practical effect of the resolution would be to repeal the Twelve o'clock Rule. Experience had proved that all work done after midnight was practically useless. The provincial, and especially the Irish press, could have no report of the proceedings, and millions of money might be voted without the public knowledge. If any encouragement were needed to resist the motion it was supplied by the Vote of £17,000,000 which was closured a few nights previously without anything like adequate discussion. In the present session, above all others, opportunities for full discussion were needed, but no Minister had ever done more to limit those opportunities or to curtail the liberties of debate than the right hon. Gentleman the present Leader of the House.

MR. BARTLEY (Islington, N.) said he should always support the rights of private Members, but it was a pity to fight over a matter which was really in no way a deprivation. It was absurd to talk about the loss of ancient privileges. When he first entered the House the discussion on Supply and Report was practically all carried on after twelve o'clock, whereas now there were twenty-three days for Supply, and the Estimates had never been discussed so well as since the introduction of the present system. He thought it was a tactical mistake to closure the Vote on Account on the preceding Tuesday, but the fact remained that if the Government had allowed another night to the discussion it would simply have meant a day less for the remaining Estimates, so that it was really to the advantage, rather than the reverse, of private Members. On occasions there was an advantage in being able to speak on Votes of Supply after twelve o'clock, and without doubt such a power as this did enable the Government to carry on its business in the face of determined opposition which sometimes existed.

MR. DALZIEL could not follow the argument that this resolution would confer extra time for discussing Supply. If the resolution was not passed the Report of Supply would have to be dealt with before twelve o'clock, and consequently in Government time.

Mr. Flynn.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: It would be closured.

MR. DALZIEL would much rather have the closure and no discussion than the farce of a discussion after twelve o'clock. It was amazing to hear the First Lord talking as if he would like to go back to the ancient times before the Twelve o'clock Rule was passed. The very worst thing the House could do would be to encourage such a course in any but the most exceptional circumstances. If in such a session as the present this resolution was to be passed, why did not the right hon. Gentleman have the courage of what appeared to be his opinion, and suspend the Twelve o'clock Rule altogether? It was no good the House deluding itself with the idea that it was sitting under the Twelve o'clock Rule if day after day it had to look at its Order Paper to see whether there was any Report of Supply to be taken which might occupy several hours after midnight. Seeing that only one item of the Vote on Account closured a few nights before had been discussed, it was almost certain there would be a very late, if not an all-night, sitting on the Report stage of that Vote. The right hon. Gentleman was really working the House a little too far. A most important discussion with regard to the Civil List might take place after midnight. There would be a Select Committee; the Select Committee would make a Report; in order to carry out that Report a Bill would be required; that Bill could only be brought before the House on a resolution in Committee of Ways and Means; and the Report on that would come after twelve o'clock. In view of the character of the business before the House this session, and the enormous demands already made, he considered a case had not been made out for the resolution.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR (Liverpool, Scotland) rather envied the light heart with which the Leader of the House calmly proposed that they should go back to the struggles and hours which obtained in the sessions between 1880 and 1887, but if those conditions were to be renewed he believed that many Members would before long find the preservation of their health to be inconsistent with their remaining Members of the House. If this rule was passed, Members would begin seriously to discuss between midnight and two or three o'clock in the morning questions they had been unable to debate at other periods of the session, with the result that Ministers and officials of the House, and perhaps, under existing circumstances, the police also, would be compelled once more to return to the bad habits which he thought the House had given up for ever. It was impossible that complicated diplomacy and intricate negotiation could be satisfactorily carried on by Ministers who came to their offices jaded and weary after a late sitting in the House. The right hon. Gentleman was a strong supporter of the principles of the Monarchy, but could anything be more calculated to prejudice the repute of the Monarchy in this country than that a proposal with regard to the revenues of the Crown should be brought forward in the small hours of the morning, when there was no reasonable opportunity for discussing the question, or of having the debates reported in the press? The hon. Member strongly protested against the resolution, and warned the House that, if carried, it would mean a return to the bad old time when Members considered themselves very lucky if they were able to get to bed between four and five o'clock in the morning.

Mr. JORDAN (Fermanagh, S.) said that the First Lord of the Treasury stated that his motion would give them additional time, but it would be illegitimate time, when their minds and bodies were jaded. He protested against being compelled to sit in the House up to such untimely hours of the morning. The ancient usage to which the right hon. Gentleman had referred was repealed on account of its oppressiveness, and now the First Lord of the Treasury wished to retain not only this ancient usage but the closure as well.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 253; Noes, 161. (Division List No. 55.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Col. James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W (Leeds
Balfour, Maj. K. R. (Christchch
Banbury, Frederick George
Bartley, George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen B.
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol
Beach, Rt. Hon. W W. B. (Hants
Beckett, Ernest William
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Col. Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Boulnois, Edmund
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex)
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, Col. Montagu
Brown, Alex. H. (Shropshire)
Bull, William James
Bullard, Sir Harry
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles R.
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Cranborne, Viscount
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Cross, H. Shepherd (Bolton)
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)
Dewar, T. R. (T'r H'mlets, S Geo.
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dimsdale, Sir Joseph C.
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred. D.
Dorington, Sir John Edward
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. Hart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
Fergusson, Rt. Hn Sir J. (Manc'r
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
Fitzroy, Hon. Edward A.
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Forster, Henry William
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H (City of Lond.
Gibbs, Hn. Vicary (St. Albans)
Gordon, Hn. J. E (Elgin & Nairn)
Gordon, Maj. E.-(T'r Hamlets)
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Green, Walford D. (Wednesb'ry
Greene, Sir E W (B'ry S Edm'nds
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
Gretton, John
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gunter, Colonel
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hain, Edward
Hall, Edward Marshall
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G (Middx

Hardy,Laurence(Kent,Ashfr'd
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris,FLeverton(Tynemouth
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hermon-Hodge, RobertTrotte
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hoare, Edw.Brodie(Hampstd)
Hobhouse, Henry(Somerset,E
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope,JF.(Sheffield,Brightside
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Hoult, Joseph
Howard,J.(Midd.,Tottenham)
Hozier,Hon.JamesHenryCecil
Jackson, Rt.Hon.Wm.Lawies
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Jessel,CaptainHerbertMerton
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir J. H.
Kenyon, Hon.Geo.T.(Denbigh
Kenyon, James (Lancs.,Bury)
Kenyon-Slaney,Col.W.(Salop.
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Knowles, Lees
Lambton, Hon.FrederickWm.
Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawson, John Grant
Lee,Capt.AH(Hants.Fareham
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leveson-Gower,FrederickN.S.
Long,Col.CharlesW,(Evesham
Long,RtHonWalter(Bristol,S)
Lowe, Francis William
Lucas, Col.Francis(Lowestoft)
Lucas,ReginaldJ.(Portsmouth
Lyttleton, Hon. Alfred
Macartney,RtHnW.G.Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Iver,SirLewis(EdinburghW
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Maple, Sir John Blundell
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell,RtHnSirH.E(Wigt'n
Maxwell,WJH(Dumfriesshire
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
Middlemore,J'hnThrogmorton
Milton, Viscount
Milward, Colonel Victor
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
More,Robt.Jasper(Shropshire)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton,ArthurH.A.(Deptford
Mount, William Arthur
Muntz, Philip A.
Murray,RtHnA.Graham(Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath
Myers, William Henry
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Parker, Gilbert
Pease, Herb. Pike (Darlington
Peel, Hon. Wm. Robert W.
Pemberton, John S. G.
Penn, John
Pilkington, Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lieut.-Col. Edw.
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Charles Bine
Rentoul, James Alexander
Ridley,HonM.W.(Stalybridge
Ritchie, Rt.Hn.Chas.Thomson
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Rothschild,Hon.LionelWalter
Round, James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W.
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Saunderson,RtHn.Col.Edw.J.
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.
Seely, Chas. Hilton (Lincoln)
Seton-Karr, Henry
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, E.)
Smith,JamesParker(Lanarks.
Smith, Hon. W. F. D.(Strand)
Spencer,Ernest(W.Bromwich)
Stanley,EdwardJas.(Somerset
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stroyan, John
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot,Rt.Hn.JG(Oxf'd Univ.
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Thornton, Percy M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tufnell, Col. Edward
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E.
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Wason,JohnCathcart (Orkney
Webb,Colonel WilliamGeorge
Welby,Lt.-Col.ACE(Taunton
Wharton, Rt. Hon. JohnLloyd
Whiteley,H(Asht'n und.Lyne
Wills, Sir Frederick
Wilson,A.Stanley(York,E.R.)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson,J.W.(Worcestersh.N.
Wortley,Rt.Hon.C.B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
Young,Commander(Berks,E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Allan, William (Gateshead)
Allen,CharlesP.(Glouc.Stroud
Ambrose, Robert
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith,Rt.Hn.HerbertHenry
Atherley-Jones, L.
Barlow, John Emmott
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bell, Richard
Black, Alexander William
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brand, Hon. Arthur G.
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown,GeorgeM.(Edinburgh)
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, John
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caine, William Sproston
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carew, James Laurence
Causton, Richard Knight
Cogan, Denis J.
Craig, Robert Hunter
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies,M.Vaughan-(Cardigan
Delany, William
Dewar John A.(Inverness-sh.)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, James H.
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, John Edward
Emmott, Alfred
Evans,SirFrancisH(Maidstone
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith
Ffrench, Peter
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gladstone,Rt.Hn.Herbert Jn.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Haldane, Richard Burdon
Hammond, John
Harcourt, Rt.Hn. Sir William
Hardie,J.Keir(MerthyrTydvil
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Hayden, John Patrick
Healy, Timothy Michael
Helme, Norval Watson

Hemphill, Rt. Hon. CharlesH.
Hobhouse, C.E.H. (Bristol,E.)
Holland, William Henry
Jacoby, James Alfred
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, D. Brynmor (Swansea)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennedy, Patrick James
Kinloch, Sir John Geo. Smyth
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leng, Sir John
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
Lowther, Rt. Hn. Jas. (Kent)
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Arthur, Wm. (Cornwall)
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Laren, Charles Benjamin
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mather, William
Mellor, Rt. Hon. John Wm.
Mooney, John J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morton, Ed. J. C. (Devonport)
Moulton, John Fletcher
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipper'ry Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, Jas. (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Palmer, George Wm. (Reading)
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, John Wynford
Pickford, Benjamin
Pirie, Duncan V.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, Robert John
Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Reid, Sir R. Threshie (Dumfr.
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Roche, John
Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfarsh.)
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer, Rt Hn C. R. (Northn'ts.
Stevenson, Francis S.
Strachey, Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, F. Freeman- (Hastings
Thomas, J A (Glamorgan, Gow'r
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Tully, Jasper
Wallace, Robert
Walton, John Lawson (Leeds, S.
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Weir, James Galloway
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth
Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Labouchere and Mr. Dalziel.

MR. TULLY (Leitrim, S.) moved an Amendment to leave out the Report of Supply of 5th March from the operation of the motion before the House. He believed he was correct in stating that there was no precedent for the moving of the closure upon a Vote amounting to £17,000,000 after one night's debate.

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member cannot discuss at this point the application of the closure.

MR. TULLY said he was striving to give his reasons, and one was that this Vote of £17,000,000----

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member is not entitled to go into that question.

MR. TULLY said they wished to discuss the Report of Supply of the 5th of March at a reasonable hour, so that they could have a full and frank discussion upon all the different items. He thought that under the circumstances the First Lord of the Treasury might agree to exempt this particular Vote. He thought it was entirely unprecedented to closure a Vote on Account of £17,000,000----

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member must not enter upon that subject.

MR. T. M. HEALY: We cannot hear your words, Mr. Speaker, owing to the disorder on the other side.

Amendment proposed—

"In line 3, to insert, after the word 'Money,' the words 'excepting the Report of Supply of 5th March.'"—(*Mr. Tully.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT (Monmouthshire, W.): I have generally voted with the Government on this rule in reference to Report of Supply and Report of Ways and Means. I voted against them on the last motion. That was a separate matter, and it was only used in the year 1896. I thought there was a great deal of force in the objection taken to the Civil List. I think what the hon. Member has just asked for might reasonably be granted. I think that one night's discussion on such a large matter, involving so much money and so many subjects as that Vote of Account, is not sufficient. It is not a question of an ordinary Vote in Supply, and it is rather misleading to call it a Vote in Supply. The right hon. Gentleman has said that, after all, if there is to be another day granted to this Vote it must come out of the private Members' time. That is quite true, but I think it is a very reasonable solution, and it is not asking the Government to sacrifice any Government time, to grant what the hon. Member has asked for. It would come out of the time allotted to Supply, and I think it would be a good way of dealing with this question.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I fear there is still a certain amount of misconception in the House in regard to this matter. I have already endeavoured to remove it, but once again I will try to explain. The hon. Member who moved the Amendment said he did so on the ground that two millions of the amount of the Vote on Account was for Irish purposes in which Irish Members were interested, which he thought should be discussed, and he thought the proper place to discuss it was on the Vote on Account. But the right hon. Gentleman, on general grounds, expressed an opinion that more time should be given to the Vote on Account. So far as the Government are concerned, it matters not a farthing whether the whole of the twenty-three days are devoted to discussion of Estimates in the form of Votes on Account or in the specific form of separate Votes. It is a more convenient proceeding to discuss Votes by arrangement when you know what the Votes are, than in the loose and uncertain fashion which is inevitable if they are discussed on the Vote on Account. I quite grant that hon. Gentlemen opposite have a natural and legitimate desire to discuss both the Irish Local Government Board and the Irish Constabulary Votes, but the only question is whether it would not be more convenient to discuss them on the Irish Estimates on a day fixed beforehand when these Votes would be put down first. I would point out to the right hon. Gentleman that his legitimate desire to discuss these Votes might not be fulfilled if I followed the course he suggests; for, suppose the Report of the Vote on Account were put down as the first Order next Friday, those Votes might never be reached. It is in the power of the Government to print the Votes in what order they like—following a practice which, I admit, is unusual, but which is I think, convenient, and which was adopted to facilitate discussion—and therefore I made an appeal, through the proper channel, to the Leader of the Opposition to know what Votes he desired to come on first.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: Did the right hon. Gentleman make any communication to the Irish party in settling the order of the Votes?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: No, Sir; I did not.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: The right hon. Gentleman has boasted over and over again, if I may use the expression, that in settling the order of Votes he has taken care to consult the convenience of Members in all quarters of the House; and it has been the practice to consult the representatives of the Irish party. But on this occasion he neglected to do so.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: In deciding in what order the Votes on the Irish Estimates should come up on the day fixed for these Estimates, the wishes of the Irish Members are supreme. I have always admitted that; but in regard to the Vote on Account, the Government have to consider the wishes of the Opposition as a whole, and not a particular section of it. Now, what I come to is this: having, to the best of my ability, put down the Votes in the order which I thought was most convenient, it is impossible that that order can be altered on the Report stage. If the Vote on Account was put down first on Friday night, it would not prevent any Member of the House from raising points on an earlier Vote than those in which the hon. Gentleman is interested; and we should be as far off from the Votes for the Irish Local Government Board and the Irish Constabulary as on Tuesday last. Therefore, if it were the view of the Opposition that more time should be given to the Irish Local Government Board Vote at the expense of other Votes, the Government are quite ready to accede to that wish. We have no desire to burke discussion on that Vote or any other Vote; but the convenient method for arriving at it, is not to put down the Vote on Account, but to fix a day convenient to the Irish Members for the discussion of the Irish Estimates. I regard it as almost an essential part of the new Supply rule that the greater part of the time should be devoted to specific Votes and the smallest portion of time to vague discussions of Votes on Account. If the Opposition prefer a broad, loose, and mixed discussion to precise, specific, and fixed discussion, I think they are wrong; but it is not for the Government to complain, as the total amount of time taken from the Government resources is not increased. But I do beg hon. Gentlemen to understand, if they want the Estimates to be properly discussed, that the proper way to arrive at it is not by promiscuous debate on Votes on Account, but by insisting on specific Votes being brought forward on Fridays. I assure hon. Gentlemen opposite, if they are going to press me to give another of the twenty-three days for Supply to the Vote on Account, I shall accede to the request, but I would rather that they would allow us, as soon as possible, to go into the orderly, businesslike, and pre-arranged debates which are only possible when we take the Votes in their order.

MR. T. M. HEALY said the right hon. Gentleman had spoken of the Opposition, but he seemed to have forgotten that there was only one Opposition now—the Irish Opposition; at least, since the Liberal party had chosen to tread "the Primrose path of dalliance" marked out for it by Lord Rosebery. He would remind the right hon. Gentleman that he had now successfully demonstrated that there should be no discussion on the Vote on Account. His argument had gone the full length. He had proved satisfactorily to Irish Members that they should never open their mouths on Votes on Account. The right hon. Gentleman, of course, now suggested topics for debate interesting to the party of Lord Rosebery; and therefore it was inevitable that no Irish question could ever be considered on Votes on Account. It was due to his colleagues for him to say that their demand for discussion was reasonable in view of the decision recently given by the Irish Court of Appeal in regard to the action of the Local Government Board—a decision which affected not merely their Imperial relations with Ireland as taxpayers, but the local relations as ratepayers. That decision involved tens of thousands of pounds to the county councils and local bodies, and the Irish Members had been expecting some discussion upon it, though evidently that was not to be allowed. Why, therefore, were the Irish Members brought here at all, if they were never to be allowed to say a word on the expenditure of seventeen millions of money? He did not suppose that the right hon. Gentleman took so much interest in Irish subjects as he did when he occupied an Irish office, but he was sure if the right hon. Gentleman was aware of the intense interest which centred round the dispute between the Local Government Board and the county and district councils, some evening would be given to the discussion of it. The right hon. Gentleman must recollect that new orders of the Local Government Board were being moulded at this moment. He would suggest to the right hon. Gentleman as an escape out of the difficulty that there should be some understanding in the House that he should put down Report of Supply some evening with a view to this Irish subject being thoroughly threshed out. The matter could be easily arranged by Mr. Speaker calling first on some Irish Member.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not think it would be really practicable to give another night to the Vote on Account, unless there was some general arrangement as to the Supplementary Votes to be taken before Easter. As it is, I am afraid that, in order to comply with the law, late nights and Saturday sittings will be necessary up to 31st March. I do not see how the views of the hon. Gentlemen opposite can be met unless all other Members waive all questions that arise on the Vote on Account before the Irish Votes; in the second place, unless they give the Government the remaining Supplementary Estimates, so that we may meet the law; and in the third place, unless they submit to one of the twenty-two remaining days being taken away in order to have the desired discussion on the Vote on Account. If, on the contrary, they are not prepared to give all these three things, I venture to suggest that, if this be a question of such immediate pressure, the best plan would be to ask me to give them the first free Friday after we have complied with the law. I want to give them every facility they can legitimately claim.

Mr. LOUGH (Islington, W.) said that the right hon. Gentleman was constantly saying he would oblige those on that side of the House. The right hon. Gentleman did not do justice to their feelings. They wanted something more than time; they wanted satisfaction. He wanted to support the Amendment in order to get further consideration for the Report of Supply of March 5th. They were dealing on Tuesday last with a concrete subject full of details, which was very pressing, especially in London; but the House of Commons had no attention whatever paid to it from, and certainly no satisfactory answer given by, the Government in regard to that subject. If the right hon. Gentleman conceded a short time to the House of Commons, it might possibly do; but if he would listen to nothing, the discussion would not be of a very productive character. He saw the Vice-President present. That right hon. Gentleman told them the other night, and he had repeated it since, that he could do nothing on this educational matter. What they wanted was that the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the House, who could do something, should come there; and then the matter could be disposed of very quickly. If they were met in a spirit of consideration or compromise in regard to some administrative details which they thought very pressing, then the business of the House could go on.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND said that the claim his friends had made was reasonable, and the right hon. Gentleman should find a way out of the difficulty. He did not know whether the right hon. Gentleman was under a misapprehension as to what was really wanted. He suggested to the right hon. Gentleman not that one of the allotted Irish days should be devoted to discussing Report of Supply, but that on some day in the near future two or three hours before midnight should be devoted to it. In that way the right hon. Gentleman would be making what was after all a very small concession, but one which would go a considerable way to meet the difficulty in which they were placed. He appealed to the right hon. Gentleman to concede this reasonable claim, and rob them, if he might put it in that way, to some extent of a grievance.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: My objection to the suggestion of the hon. Gentleman is that it is quite impossible for me to bind the House, nor do I see how it is possible to make a time arrangement unless there is a consensus of opinion that the matter to be discussed is one which the House desires to hear. [Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett was understood to dissent.] Of course my hon. friend the Member for Ecclesall would have something to say on foreign affairs! If I were to make some concession to the suggestion of the hon. Gentleman, he might make some concession to me in regard to time.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND said he had no power to give any such undertaking. The right hon. Gentleman spoke of a mutual compromise. He was to give the Irish Members two hours, and they were to give him all the time necessary to get him out of the difficulty caused by his calling Parliament too late.

Mr. ASQUITH (Fifeshire, E.) observed that the main difficulty in carrying out the very reasonable suggestion of the hon. Member for Waterford was that no security had been devised, either by arrangement or otherwise, that the Irish Votes would be taken first.

Mr. J. P. FARRELL (Longford, N.) said he desired to support the Amendment because in his opinion it was undoubtedly the fault of the right hon. Gentleman the First Lord of the Treasury that the House found itself in its present position. If the right hon. Gentleman was so desirous of concluding the financial business in the legal time, he should have called Parliament together a month earlier than he did. That the Government found itself in a difficulty was due entirely to the action of the right hon. Gentleman, not only for not calling Parliament together earlier, but also through closuring the debate in the previous week, by which means many matters were entirely cut out from discussion. The proposal of the right hon. Gentleman simply amounted to this, that if the Irish Members desired to discuss Votes on Account, they would have to discuss them during an all-night sitting, merely because the Government had not taken proper precautions to ensure facilities being given to Parliament to discuss the Votes. Such a state of things, if carried to its logical conclusion, was bound to affect the health of Members and render them physically unable to carry on the work of the House. It was a physical impossibility to continue to sit night after night without the health of Members being affected. It appeared to him that the House sat, not for the accommodation of humble private Members, but for the wealthy classes——

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member is travelling into matters unconnected with the question. The question is whether the words "except Report of Supply of 5th March" shall be added.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I have exhausted my ingenuity in finding methods by which we can both keep the law and meet the views of hon. Gentlemen opposite. But I now make this suggestion—that after this rule has been passed I shall not put down the Vote on Account after twelve o'clock until I am absolutely driven to it by the arrival of the 25th March. I will put it off and take the Report of Supply after twelve o'clock, and then I will put it down, if I can, at a convenient hour.

MR. J. P. FARRELL said that, in the absence of the Leader of the Irish party, he could not reply to the offer of the right hon. Gentleman, but he thought every facility should be given for the discussion of the Votes affecting Ireland, which were of the greatest importance to the country, affecting as they did over a million of money. The right hon. Gentleman had already encroached far too much on the time that used to be given to Irish Supply, and although the Irish Members were only a small minority in the House, they had exercised fully and fairly the duties of opposition, they had taken every opportunity of pressing upon the Government important reforms, and they ought to have a fair opportunity of ventilating the grievances under which their country suffered. If such opportunity were given to them he had no doubt whatever they would be able to bring home to the mind of the right hon. Gentleman the necessity for important reforms in the administration of the country from which they came. Upon the Vote for the Local Government Board, for instance, they would be able to bring home the absolute despotism with which that bureaucratic body governed Ireland; the Public Works Office would give an opportunity to discuss another office of the same kind, and there were many other important matters. He hoped that the right hon. Gentleman would see his way to accept in its entirety the Amendment of the hon. Member for South Leitrim. It was not a great concession to make, seeing that there were still Parliamentary days to discuss Supply, that there was no great legislative proposal before the House, and no very important matter to be discussed. He could not understand under the circumstances why the right hon. Gentleman had curtailed the time of the House, nor could he see any reason why he should not accept the Amendment.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR rose in his place and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

A VOICE FROM THE IRISH BENCHES: Oh, oh—gag at once.

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! If I knew who the hon. Member was who called out "gag" I should certainly take notice of his conduct.

*SIR E. ASHMEAD BARTLETT (Sheffield, Ecclesall) said he desired to call the attention of the House for one moment to the very great danger of its forgetting what Votes on Account really were. They embraced all the subjects in the Estimates for the whole session—every subject, English, Irish, Scotch, home, foreign, and colonial. It had been the practice to have what the First Lord of the Treasury had, in his opinion, unfortunately called promiscuous discussions. The discussion was varied, necessarily, because the subjects were varied and promiscuous. He was very glad to hear the right hon. Gentleman decline to be a party to binding the House to an isolated discussion upon one subject, upon a Vote on Account. With all due respect to hon. Gentlemen who represented Ireland, and who no doubt desired earnestly to discuss Irish subjects, there were other subjects which ought to be discussed. There were many Members in the House who felt that discussion was more necessary on foreign affairs—on Chinese affairs—than upon Irish affairs. He also desired to call attention to the unfortunate result of what happened the other night when one Vote only was put down and the discussion of it arranged for the whole evening.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Nobody arranged that. What I did arrange was what Vote should be taken first.

*SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT said when the Educational Vote was put down first, and a reduction moved, it was the general scheme that it should be discussed all the evening. That proceeding resulted in the absolute curtailment of discussion on any other business whatever. He did not accuse the right hon. Gentleman of doing this deliberately, but he asked him to consider how easy it would be for a Government, when they found a subject which they, in their judgment, considered a dangerous subject for discussion, to arrange with the Opposition to put down a Vote for discussion upon some other subject in which great interest was taken by the House, and, by encouraging that discussion to continue, shut out entirely the subject which they wished to avoid. He protested against that sort of procedure, and he hoped that the Irish Members would not allow the Irish Estimates to be made a means of preventing discussion upon all other subjects. He should certainly vote for the Amendment.

MR. POWER (Waterford, E.) said that the First Lord of the Treasury had spoken of the necessity for economising the time of the House. In his view the management of affairs by the right hon. Gentleman had consumed more time than anything else. The very motion the right hon. Gentleman now made was a condemnation of these big Supplementary Votes.

Question put, "That those words be there inserted."

The House divided:—Ayes, 107; Noes, 189. (Division List No. 56.)

AYES.

Allen, Charles P. (Glouc., Stroud
Ambrose, Robert
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atherley-Jones, L.
Barlow, John Emmott
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Bell, Richard
Black, Alexander William
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, George M. (Edinburgh)
Burns, John
Caine, William Sproston
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Clancy, John Joseph
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Delany, William
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Dunn, Sir William
Ellis, John Edward
Emmott, Alfred
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Ffrench, Peter
Flynn, James Christopher
Furness, Sir Christopher
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hammond, John
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm.
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Hayden, John Patrick
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Chas. H.
Holland, William Henry
Jones, David B. (Swansea)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Patrick James
Kinloch, Sir John George S.
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leng, Sir John
Levy, Maurice
Lloyd-George, David
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
M'Dermott, Patrick
Mather, William
Mooney, John J.
Morgan, J. L. (Carmarthen)
Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.)
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norman, Henry

Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary, Mid.)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, J. (Roscommon, N.)
O Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Philipps, John Wynford
Pickard, Benjamin
Pirie, Duncan V.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roche, John
Russell, T. W.
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Soares, Ernest J.
Stevenson, Francis S.
Sullivan, Donal
Thomas, J. A. (Glam., Gower)
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Tully, Jasper
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Weir, James Galloway
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Mr. Patrick O'Brien and
Mr. Haviland-Burke.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r.
Balfour, Rt. Hn. Ger. W. (Leeds)
Balfour, Maj. K. R. (Christch'ch
Bartley, George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol
Beckett, Ernest William
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Bull, William James
Bullard, Sir Harry
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.
Chamberlain, J. Austen (W'rc'r
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Cook, Frederick Lucas
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Cranborne, Viscount
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Dewar, T. R (T'r H'mlets, S. Geo
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dinsdale, Sir Joseph Cockfield
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dorington, Sir John Edward
Douglas, Rt. Hon A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (Man'r
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
Fitzroy, Hon. Edward Algernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Forster, Henry William
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H (City of Lond.
Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin & Nairn)
Gordon, Maj Evans-(T'r H'ml'ts
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, Sir E W (B'ry S Edm'nds
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
Gretton, John
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hain, Edward
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G (Midl'x
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, F Leverton (Tynemouth
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Heath, James (Staffords. N. W.)
Heaton, John Henniker
Hermon-Hodge, Robert T.
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hoare, Edw Brodie (Hampstead
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope, J F. (Sheffield, Brightside
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Hoult, Joseph
Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (Denbigh
Kenyon, James (Lancs., Bury)
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop.
Knowles, Lees
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawson, John Grant
Lee, Capt. A H (Hants, Fareham
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Long, Rt Hn. Walter (Bristol, S.
Lowe, Francis William
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth
Macartney, Rt. Hn. W G Ellison
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (Edinburgh W
Manners, Lord Cecil
Maxwell, Rt Hn Sir H E (Wigt'n
Maxwell, W J H (Dumfriesshire
Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
Milton, Viscount
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford
Mount, William Arthur
Muntz, Philip A.
Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham (Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry
Myers, William Henry
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Parker, Gilbert
Pease, Herb. Pike (Darlington)
Pemberton, John S. G.
Pilkington, Richard
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Renshaw, Charles Bine
Rentoul, James Alexander
Ridley, Hn. M. W. (Stalybridge
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Round, James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, H. C (Northmb. Tyneside
Smith, James Parker (Lanarks)
Stanley, Edward Jas. (Somerset)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Stroyan, John

Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Thornton, Percy M.
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E.
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Webb, Col. William George
Welby, Lt.-Col. A C E. (Taunton
Wills, Sir Frederick
Wilson, Fred. W (Norfolk, Mid.
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
Young, Commander (Berks., E.

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

Main Question again proposed.

MR. O'MARA (Kilkenny, S.) rose to continue the discussion.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR rose in his place and claimed to move, "That the Main Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Main Question be now put."

The House divided:—Ayes, 193; Noes, 103. (Division List No. 57.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W (Leeds
Balfour, Maj. K R (Christchurch
Bartley, George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Harry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Bull, William James
Bullard, Sir Henry
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Cook, Frederick Lucas
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Cranborne, Viscount
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dickson Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dimsdale, Sir Joseph C.
Dorington, Sir John Edward
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir William T.
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph D.
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn E.
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (Manc'r
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fitzroy, Hon. Edward A.
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Sir Michael (Lond. Uni.)
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City of Lon.
Gibbs, Hon. V. (St. Albans)
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin & Nairn
Gordon, Maj Evans-(T'r H'ml'ts
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John E.
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, Sir E. W. (B'y St Edm'ds
Greene, H. D. (Shrewsbury)
Gretton, John
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hain, Edward
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G. (Mid'x
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, F. L. (Tynemouth)
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Heath, Jas. (Staffords., N. W.)
Heaton, John Henniker
Helme, Norval Watson
Hermon-Hodge, Robert T.
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hoare, Edw. B. (Hampstead)
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Hoult, Joseph
Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham)
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir John H.
Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (Denbigh
Kenyon, James (Lancs., Bury)
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop)
Knowles, Lees
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawson, John Grant
Lee, Capt. A H (Hants, Fareham
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S
Long, Rt. Hn Walter (Bristol, S.
Lowe, Francis William
Lucas, Reginald J (Portsmouth
Macartney, Rt. Hn. W. G. E.
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (Edinburgh W
Manners, Lord Cecil
Maxwell, Rt Hn Sir H. E (Wigt'n
Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfriessh.
Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
Milton, Viscount
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Moore, William (Antrim, N.
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire
Morrell, George Herbert
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Morton, Arthur H. A (Deptford)
Mount, William Arthur
Muntz, Philip A.
Murray, Rt Hn A Graham (Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Myers, William Henry
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Parker, Gilbert
Pease, Herbert P. (Darlington)
Pemberton, John S. G.
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Renshaw, Charles Bine
Rentoul, James Alexander
Ridley, Hn. M. W. (Stalybridge
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Round, James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W.

Sackville,Col. S. G. Stopford-
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith,Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith,H. C(Nrth'mb.Tyneside
Smith, James P. (Lanarks.)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley,EdwardJas.(Somerset
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stock, James Henry
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Stroyan, John
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Thornton, Percy M.
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E.
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Wason,JohnCathcart(Orkney
Webb,Colonel William George
Welby,Lt.-Col. A. C. E(Tauntn
Wills, Sir Frederick
Wilson,Fred. W.(Norfolk,Mid
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wortley,Rt. Hon.C.B.Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
Young,Commander(Berks,E.)

Tellers for the Ayes—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Allen, Chas. P. (Glouc.,Stroud
Ambrose, Robert
Atherley-Jones, L.
Barlow, John Emmott
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Bell, Richard
Black, Alexander William
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown,George M.(Edinburgh
Burns, John
Caine, William Sproston
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Cawley, Frederick
Clancy, John Joseph
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies,M.Vaughan-(Cardigan
Delany, William
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Dunn, Sir William
Emmott, Alfred
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Ffrench, Peter
Flynn, James Christopher
Furness, Sir Christopher
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Hammond, John
Hardie,J.Keir(MerthyrTydvil
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Hayden, John Patrick
Hemphill,Rt.Hon. Charles H.
Holland, William Henry
Jones,DavidBrynmor(Swans'a
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Patrick James
Kinloch,SirJohnGeorgeSmyth
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leng, Sir John
Levy, Maurice
Lloyd-George, David
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
M'Dermott, Patrick
Mather, William
Mooney, John J.
Morgan,J.Lloyd(Carmarthen)
Morton,Edw.J.C. (Devonport)
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan,Col.JohnP.(Galway,N.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien,Kendal(Tipper'ryMid
O'Connor,James(Wicklow,W.
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly,James(Roscommon,N
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Philipps, John Wynford
Pickard, Benjamin
Pirie, Duncan V.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E.(Waterford
Redmond, William (Clare)
Reid,SirR.Threshie(Dumfries
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roche, John
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Soares, Ernest J.
Stevenson, Francis S.
Sullivan, Donal
Thomas, J. A. (Glam., Gower)
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Tully, Jasper
Wason, Eugene(Clackmannan
Weir, James Galloway
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whiteley, Geo. (York, W. R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)
Yoxall, James Henry

Tellers for the Noes—
Mr. Patrick O'Brien and
Mr. Haviland-Burke.

Main Question put accordingly.

The House divided :—Ayes, 190 ; Noes, 103. (Division List No. 58.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood,Capt.SirAlex.F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot,Capt.Josceline FitzRoy
Bain, Col. James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour,Rt.Hon.A.J.(Manch'r
Balfour,RtHnGerald W(Leeds
Balfour,MajK.R(Christchurch
Bartley, George C. T.
Bathurst,Hon.AllenBenjamin
Beach,Rt.Hn.SirM.H.(Bristol
Beckett, Ernest William
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Bull, William James
Bullard, Sir Harry
Cavendish, V.C.W. (Derbysh.)
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain,Rt.Hn.J.(Birm.)
Chamberlain,J.Austen(Worc.
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H.A.E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb,SirJohnCharlesReady
Colston, Chas. Edw. H.Athole
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Cook, Frederick Lucas
Corbett,A. Cameron(Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cox, Irwin EdwardBainbridge
Cranborne, Viscount

Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dimsdale, Sir Joseph C.
Dorington, Sir John Edward
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J (Manc'r
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fitzroy, Hon. Edward Algernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Sir M. (London Univ.)
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hn. Vicary (St. Albans
Gordon, Hn. J E. (Elgin & Nairn
Gordon, Maj E.-(T'r Hamlets)
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, Sir E W (B'ry S Edm'nds
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
Gretton, John
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hain, Edward
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G. (Mid'x
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, F Leverton (Tynemouth
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Heath, J. (Staffords., N.W.)
Heaton, John Henniker
Hermon-Hodge, Robt. Trotter
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hoare, Ed. Brodie (Hampstead
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope, J F (Sheffield, Brightside)
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Hoult, Joseph

Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham
Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir John H.
Kenyon, Hn. Geo. T. (Denbigh)
Kenyon, James (Lancs., Bury)
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop
Knowles, Lees
Lambton, Hn. Frederick Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawson, John Grant
Lee, Capt A. H. (Hants, Fareh'm
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Long, Rt. Hon. W. (Bristol, S.
Lowe, Francis William
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth
Macartney, Rt. Hon. W. G. E.
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Iver, Sir L. (Edinburgh, W.
Manners, Lord Cecil
Maxwell, Rt Hn Sir H. E (Wigt'n
Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfriessh.
Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
Milton, Viscount
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire
Morrell, George Herbert
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford
Mount, William Arthur
Muntz, Philip A.
Murray, Rt Hn A Graham (Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Myers, William Henry
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Norman, Henry
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darling'n
Pemberton, John S. G.
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward

Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Renshaw, Charles Bine
Rentoul, James Alexander
Ridley, Hn. M. W. (Stalybridge
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Round, James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W.
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, E.)
Smith, H C (Northmb. Tyneside
Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Edw. Jas. (Somerset)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stock, James Henry
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Stroyan, John
Strutt, Hon. Chas. Hedley
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, W. Edw. Murray
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E.
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Wason, John C. (Orkney)
Webb, Col. William George
Welby, Lt.-Cl. A. C. E. (Taunt'n
Wills, Sir Frederick
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Allen, C. P. (Glouc., Stroud)
Ambrose, Robert
Atherley-Jones, L.
Barlow, John Emmott
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Bell, Richard
Black, Alexander William
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, George M (Edinburgh)
Burns, John
Caine, William Sproston
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Clancy, John Joseph
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cremer, William Randal

Crombie, John William
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Delany, William
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Duffy, William J.
Dunn, Sir William
Emmott, Alfred
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Ffrench, Peter
Flynn, James Christopher
Furness, Sir Christopher
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hammond, John
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Hayden, John Patrick

Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hn. Charles H.
Holland, William Henry
Jones, David Brynmor (Swanse
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Patrick James
Kinloch, Sir John George Smyth
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leng, Sir John
Levy, Maurice
Lloyd-George, David
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
M'Dermott, Patrick
Mather, William
Mooney, John J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen
Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.

Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norton, Capt. Cecil Wm.
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Philipps, John Wynford
Pickard, Benjamin
Pirie, Duncan V.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Redmond, William (Clare)
Reid, Sir R. Threshie (Dumfries)
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roche, John
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Soares, Ernest J.
Stevenson, Francis S.
Sullivan, Donal
Thomas, J A (Glamorgan Gower
Tully, Jasper
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Weir, James Galloway
White, Luke (York, E. R.
Whiteley, G. (York, W. R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wilson, Fred. W (Norfolk, Mid.
Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. Patrick O'Brien and
Mr. Haviland-Burke.

Ordered, That the Proceedings on the Reports of the Committees of Supply and Ways and Means and other Committees authorising the expenditure of Public Money may be entered upon at any hour though opposed, and shall not be interrupted under the provision of any Standing Order regulating the Sittings of the House, except of Standing Order No. 5.

SUPPLY—ARMY ESTIMATES.

Order for Committee read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair."—(*Mr. Brodrick.*)

MAJOR RASCH (Essex, Chelmsford) said that before dealing with the subject of this motion he wished to say a few words with reference to the extremely elaborate speech made by the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary of State for War. That speech was a very clever one, but he could not help thinking that they had heard something like it before. He could endorse every word the right hon. Gentleman had said about Mr. Cardwell, whose reforms had cost the country not a single penny, and that was a good deal to be able to say. He remembered a speech by Mr. Gathorne-Hardy in which he stated that there were to be eight army corps, but his promise proved to be absolutely futile and utterly worthless. Then they had the speech of Mr. Stanhope in 1892, which was very much of the same character. The Secretary of State for War had made a clever, lawyer-like and *ex parte* statement, but it reminded him of a magnificent superstructure without any foundation at all, because the *raison d'être* of the whole speech was the men, and if they could not get the men, the bottom fell out of the scheme. The right hon. Gentleman never told the House how he was going to get the men to enlist, except in reference to the Militia, who were going to have an extra bounty of 2d. per day. The number of men required this year did not bear any proportion to what were required in former years. There was sure to be a slump in recruiting next year, and the getting of the men would form a very considerable difficulty. There were at present in South Africa thousands of time-expired men, and they would go. The Reserve would be depleted, and although the right hon. Gentleman mentioned the number of Militiamen and Volunteers, he did not make the slightest provision for getting them. He noticed that the Royal Reserve battalions were to be formed into Regular battalions to take the place of those troops now serving in the Mediterranean fortresses, but was the Secretary of State for War sure of getting those Reserve battalions?

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): The hon. and gallant Member is in error. I am not in the least depending upon the Reserve battalions.

MAJOR RASCH said he understood the Reserves were to be asked to volunteer, so as to relieve those battalions now serving in the Mediterranean fortresses. It was all very well to assume that you were going to get so many Militiamen and a certain number of Yeomanry and Volunteers, but how were they going to be got? As was pointed out in a very sensible article in *The Times*, this system was not suited to the condition of things existing in this country. There were some good points in the right hon. Gentleman's speech which they all appreciated, and which hon. Members had urged on the War Office for years, and which the right hon. Gentleman himself always opposed whenever he had the chance. One of them was decentralisation, and he congratulated the right hon. Gentleman upon having grasped that fact. Then there was the important question of reducing officers' expenses in the cavalry. There was no reason why a young fellow should have to pay £22 for a busby. If hon. Members desired to know how matters stood, they could not do better than look up in Thackeray's "Snob Papers" the passages relating to Major Ponto. Unless the right hon. Gentleman carried out drastic changes with reference to kit and uniform, the state of things there described would be likely to continue. There was no reason why this should be so expensive, and even Lord Wolseley had said that a British officer in uniform was like a monkey on an organ. Surely the right hon. Gentleman ought to try to get rid of some of the absurdities of dress, and he had made a very good suggestion that officers should be allowed to get their kit from a Government depôt.

The right hon. Gentleman was quite right in getting rid of that obsolete force the Militia Reserve. As for the Yeomanry, he had never been a great admirer of the force; still, after the experience in South Africa, he should never vote against the Yeomanry again, and he was delighted to find that they were to be put in khaki; that would make the force less expensive and more popular. Then the Secretary for War stated that he was going to get rid of the inefficient officers. But why had he not thought of doing that before? His hon. friend the Member for Tunbridge had stated that the only way to obtain the men was by a Militia ballot, but there were great difficulties in the way of such a measure. The Secretary for War had been ten years at the War Office, but it was hardly fair to press him when he had so much heavy work on hand, and he did not propose to move his Amendment. As the right hon. Gentleman prophesied some months ago, the war was being prolonged. He feared that that was owing to a repetition of of mistakes made by the right hon. Gentleman's own Office in Pall Mall. There had recently been what the French would call an extraordinary *éclaircissement*, and the ex-Secretary for War had been severely criticising the late Commander-in-Chief. The Prime Minister had also told them that at the War Office everything had happened for the best; if there was any fault it lay with the British Constitution. He was not sure that the attack upon Lord Wolseley was not a sort of red herring drawn across the scent, and he should like to hear whether Lord Roberts had accepted office under those conditions which Lord Wolseley had found to be absolutely intolerable.

He wished to say a few words about the reinforcements which should have been sent out to South Africa. There was the greatest danger in the continuance of the war, because the longer our troops continued unsuccessful and the longer the end of the war was delayed the nearer came the possibility of foreign intervention. He was anxious to know why reinforcements were not sent out as they should have been during the past six months. Reinforcements were called for by Lord Kitchener, but until the last three months the Government sent hardly any forces. The Member for the Forest of Dean alluded to a statement made by General Mackinnon, in which he condemned the hasty and haphazard way in which recruits were sent to the front. He himself had seen some of the South African Constabulary embarking, and they were all without arms and accoutrements. Those were the men whom the War Office sent out as mounted men. With regard to the Yeomanry, he did not know why the right hon. Gentleman called them yeomen; at any rate they were nothing like the yeomen who used to exist in the county of Essex, who had been extinguished by foreign competition. The right hon. Gentleman had appointed two War Office Departmental Committees, but surely he must be aware that there had been something like forty such Committees appointed since 1815, and the concentrated result of their wisdom had been the recent disasters in South Africa. They knew that the Prime

Minister had suggested the formation of rifle clubs under the auspices of the Primrose League. Nothing could have shown the blissful ignorance of the Premier more than that statement. The Prime Minister had stated practically that the defence of the country was not the business of the Government, and under those circumstances they need not expect very much reform at the War Office from him. With regard to the Reserve battalions, they were very fine regiments, although the men measured rather more round the waist than they did round the chest. The unfortunate part of the matter was that the battalions cost £3,000,000, and in two or three weeks time they would disappear, and there would be nothing to show for the expenditure. If the War Office had put the money into the Militia there would have been something to show for it, and it would have put some backbone into the force, which it had not had for years. The Royal Reserve regiments contained some of the finest men he ever saw, and it was not proposed to ask them to serve in the Mediterranean garrisons. He ventured to say that that was a great waste. Some years ago, when it was proposed to send the Foot Guards to Gibraltar, he ventured to say that it was very foolish, because there was not room for them to drill, and now they were bringing the Guards back again.

The other evening the Secretary for War stated that the Government were going to allow £5 per annum to the soldier who provided his own horse. Those hon. Members who were generally called the "Colonels" in the House did not receive very much attention; but he thought that the hon. Member for Oldham, with all the experience of the South African War behind him, and all that he had said with reference to guns and horses, should hardly have made the remark that he did. Of course some gentlemen were of the Service Members, but not with them. The remarks of the right hon. Baronet the Member for the Forest of Dean were always received, as they should be, with great attention, as those of the greatest military expert in the country, but the remarks of the Service Members were not. However, they did their duty to the best of their power in laying their views before the House. He would respectfully remind the right hon. Gentleman on the Front Bench of an incident that occurred a hundred years ago across the Channel. The Ministers of Louis XVI. were confronted by a reformer. He did not know whether Jean Jacques Rousseau was a military reformer or not, but they had it on the authority of Carlyle that though the Ministers of Louis XVI. laughed to scorn the first edition of his book, their skins went to form the binding of the second. However, he did not anticipate any such calamity happening here, and he should be the first to deprecate such a proceeding as applied even to the Secretary for War. After all, the man in the street considered that War Office reform was a matter of business, and should be carried through as such, and surely the Government, with the assistance of the Secretary for War, whose eloquent speech they had all admired, should be able to add up the cost of putting the defences of the country on a proper footing and be prepared for anything that might happen. The doggerel of the American poet might be appropriately quoted:—

> "Thrice armed is he who has his quarrel just,
> But four times he who has his fist in fust."

*MR. TREVELYAN (Yorkshire, W.R., Elland) said he had put down a motion on the Paper to call attention to the fact that the Army was not a profession in which the officers could support themselves on their present pay; that the unprofessionalism in the Army, about which the Secretary for War had complained the other night, was chiefly due to the present expensive standards of living amongst many officers in many regiments; and that unprofessionalism would not be remedied until the pay was raised so as to attract quite a new class of officers into the Army. His feelings in introducing this subject were different from what they would have been two or three days ago, before the right hon. Gentleman's speech. Hon. Members in all parts of the House had received that speech with great approbation; they were delighted at its businesslike tone, and its spirit of true and energetic reform. No part of the speech, however, bore the ring of determined conviction more than that in which he spoke of the necessity for insisting upon a professional spirit on the part of the officers, on the necessity of promotion by merit, and on the necessity of cheaper living. That was a clearer statement of what Army reformers wanted than anything that had come from the War Office since the abolition of purchase; and, personally, so far as the greater part of the right hon. Gentleman's action was concerned, he intended to support him with all his vigour. He did not particularly believe in civilian criticism on the details of Army matters, such as the best kind of artillery and the best sort of rifles. But such criticism might usefully be directed to large questions of principle.

The fact was the door of the Army was closed at the present moment to any man who had not got an independent income. It was admitted on all hands that in order for a man to be an officer in a cavalry regiment he must have, at least, £500 for his outfit, and at least £500 a year in addition to his pay. He was talking during last summer to a colonel who had just retired from a cavalry regiment, and he asked him how much it was necessary for an officer in that regiment to have. The colonel replied, "From the first moment he comes into the regiment, something between £1,000 and £1,500." The situation was, that a subaltern of twenty-two or twenty-three years of age must, forsooth, have as much money to spend as any hon. Gentleman who was sitting in that House for a county constituency. [An HON. MEMBER: Exaggeration.] An hon. Gentleman said that that was an exaggeration; but in regard to his general statement that an officer of a cavalry regiment required to have an income of £500 over and above his pay, and an officer in an infantry regiment £150, he quoted a higher authority than himself—namely, the late Under Secretary for War and the present Chief Secretary for Ireland. When the war was at its height, and there was great need of officers, the Government went to the universities and asked them to give so many men from each university to become officers, and they put it in the hands of the Vice-Chancellors to make this selection. The Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge University issued a memorandum inviting candidates, and one sentence in that memorandum was to the effect that he could not recommend any candidate to the War Office unless he could find an income sufficient for the branch of the service he wished to enter. He would not say anything against the paternal solicitude of the Vice-Chancellor, but he must say that it was most extraordinary that that confession should have been deliberately made, and that the War Office should have said they could not blame the Vice-Chancellor for making that recommendation. It showed how obvious it was that it was impossible for many men to go into the Army. He had made special inquiries in Cambridge, and had been told that there were many young men who were prevented, though ready to offer their services, from doing so by that clause in the Vice-Chancellor's memorandum.

But further, anyone who went into the Army had to look forward with an increasing anxiety to the time when he rose in rank. The low pay in the higher ranks was just as much a deterrent to a man who thought ahead, who did not go into the Army to amuse himself, and who did not wish to run into debt. The proposals of the Secretary for War hardly seemed to him to meet the situation. The right hon. Gentleman proposed to promote in future to higher commands much more strictly by merit; to cheapen the cost of officers' clothing, to give them horses free, and various other advantages; but that did not make the Army a profession in which a man would be able to live on the pay he received. A great many people were very much afraid of democratising the Army. Personally, and many others agreed with him, he would not be afraid of democratising the Army to any extent. Honours were open from the lowest ranks to the very highest in the Napoleonic armies. Every private soldier, it was said, carried a field marshal's baton in his knapsack. In one great Anglo-Saxon army, Cromwell's, the officers were many of them mere millers and blacksmiths and brewers. [Laughter.] Yes, and brewers, too, who in those days were humbler people than they were at present. [An HON. MEMBER: They brewed pure beer.] Again, another great Anglo-Saxon army, that of the Civil War in America, was democratic, and admitted to the position of officer any man of merit, however humble his birth or the class from which he came. What was wanted in the Army was more of the professional, the middle, and the manufacturing classes, who were the strongest classes in the country, and on whom the industrial prosperity of the nation chiefly depended. These were excluded from the Army now. It was perfectly true that there were in the Army the sons of many men who had made their money in manufactures; but he came from the middle of one of the great industrial districts in Yorkshire, and he said with certainty that there were hardly any of the sons of these manufacturers who ever went into the Army. They knew that they could not afford it, and their fathers very wisely prevented them. Therefore, he said, something more drastic was needed than what the right hon. Gentleman had proposed. They wanted to find a minimum of pay on which a man could live as an officer in the Army. This great nation could afford to pay that minimum standard. They wanted to get good brains, and to pay the men better in the upper branches. He thought that the right hon. Gentleman would find it difficult, if he wanted to carry out his reforms, to entirely avoid sumptuary laws. He did not at present wish to do anything which might appear hostile to the progressive plans of the right hon. Gentleman, but if this question of expensive living and inadequate pay in the Army was not taken up voluntarily by the Government, there would be a movement in the country to demand it. The Government kept on speaking of the enthusiasm of the colonies for the mother country; but he was rather surprised that the right hon. Gentleman, in the course of his speech, had said nothing about the colonies or of asking them to join in this great Army reform. He thought that that was to be regretted, but they might be quite certain that the colonies would never take part in any Army in which they could not send their own sons to form some part of the officers. They would not be content that the only officers should be the sons of rich squatters; they would insist, if they were to take some part in it, that the Army should be made more democratic than now. In conclusion, he would say that in view of the sympathetic treatment of the general question by the right hon. the Secretary for War he would not move the motion of which he had given notice.

*Mr. CHARLES DOUGLAS (Lanarkshire, N.W.) said that in rising to move the motion standing in his name he recognised the extreme difficulty and delicacy of the task he had undertaken. The House was invited to form a decision on a question of personal right and justice to an individual. He deeply and unhesitatingly deplored the necessity of adopting that method, for he did not think it was a suitable one, and if there had been a better he would have taken it. For this discussion, however, he could not be blamed. It had all along been and still was in the power of the Secretary for War by granting an inquiry to prevent the discussion taking place. It was not any part of his intention to make a partisan attack upon the right hon. Gentleman. If he had had that desire, there was nothing which would have made him less inclined to gratify it than the brilliant speech made by the right hon. Gentleman on Friday night. Especially he did not dissent from that part of the speech in which the right hon. Gentleman expressed his adhesion to, and urged on the House the policy of, only employing in peace commands generals who had shown themselves fit to hold those commands in war. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would take it that that policy lay altogether outside of the area of any difference that might arise between them. He recognised further that it was a matter of common sense as well as simple justice that the Commander-in-Chief should choose his own officers, more especially when engaged in a campaign and bearing a responsibility which even the most foolish person in the country would not desire to share. He thought it was altogether right that the Commander-in-Chief and the Government should refuse to recall an officer from his command merely because there was a little popular clamour on the subject. The people of the country, however, had shown their willingness, almost their eagerness, to suspend their judgment in all such cases because they had perfect confidence in Lord Roberts, and there was a general feeling that they ought to approach the judgment of men who were risking their lives and reputation for the sake of the country with peculiar care and peculiar humility. There had been throughout the nation a very sincere desire that no man should be punished without a full, complete, and thorough trial.

The more he felt the delicacy of the task the more he felt it incumbent upon him to be perfectly frank with the House. One matter he would refer to in the outset. A very considerable prejudice had been created against General Colvile by the fact that he had published in the newspapers a statement of his treatment by the War Office. He did not defend that action of General Colvile's. It was most desirable and necessary that they should uphold and fortify the great tradition of Army reticence. Sometimes it led to hardship, but it was essential to discipline, and more than ever necessary now in view of the extreme activity displayed by the newspapers. He did not defend General Colvile's action, but he hoped the House would allow him to submit one or two considerations in regard to it. In the first place, reticence could not be all on one side. If their generals were never to take means of vindicating themselves publicly, then he ventured to think that a little reticence should be observed by the War Office. When General Colvile returned to this country the first thing which he saw was a newspaper paragraph, which was obviously inspired.

MR. BRODRICK: The only statement I saw came from Gibraltar, and could not have come from the War Office.

*MR. CHARLES DOUGLAS: So far as the right hon. Gentleman is concerned, I entirely accept his disclaimer. On the other hand, if he denies that the statement came from the War Office, then I must invite him to perfect his information. But I will read the article, so that the House may judge of its character,

GENERAL COLVILE'S POSITION.

AN IRREVOCABLE DECISION.

> "The *Daily Mail* learns that the communication to the Press relative to the request for General Colvile's resignation did not emanate from the War Office.
>
> "The request was, of course, made with the full acquiescence and authority of the Secretary of State for War after minute and full inquiries had been instituted into the affair at Lindley as well as that at Sanna's Post.
>
> "No further investigation is considered necessary by the authorities, who fully recognise the gravity and importance of the step they have taken.
>
> "General Colvile will, despite his attitude on the matter, have to bow to the inevitable, and, though naturally considerable sympathy will be felt for an officer who has served his country in several campaigns, the decision is irrevocable.
>
> "The General's pay ceased from the date on which the notification reached him, and no action on his part can affect the decision which has been arrived at by the Secretary of State and his advisers."

If that be not a communication which comes from the War Office, then a miracle must have happened, and if it had so happened it was not with the knowledge of General Colvile, and he was entitled to assume that that article came from the War Office. Even apart from that, I shall presently show the House that there was most grievous provocation. In the meantime, I shall only say that I believe that what General Colvile did he did in anger; his action was not calculated or premeditated; it was brought about by the most justifiable resentment aroused by gross insult and intolerable wrong. And, again, what other course was open to him? What other appeal had he? None whatever. The right hon. Gentleman, in answer to the hon. Member for Chester, the other day gave the following reply—

> "No officer has a right to appeal to a court martial, but to the Commander-in-Chief and to the Sovereign in accordance with Section 42 of the Army Act."

Precisely. Having been condemned by the right hon. Gentleman in consultation with Lord Roberts, he is graciously allowed to appeal to Lord Roberts in consultation with the right hon. Gentleman.

The case I have to submit to the House is not the propriety of publication. It is not the action of the War Office in placing General Colvile on retired pay, although I admit that I have a natural curiosity to learn by what series of irregularities the right hon. Gentleman arrived at the amount of, what has been euphemistically called, a "special pension," although the pleasant phrase hardly does justice to the fact that it is £100 a year less than General Colvile was entitled to receive. I want to know what went before that. It is said that General Colvile was put out of court by what he did in making a public statement. I do not admit it. But if he were, we are not out of court. We are still entitled to consider the right hon. gentleman's management of our army.

Now, Sir, I am very much confirmed in my belief in the necessity of some inquiry by the extraordinary ignorance lately displayed by the Secretary of State for War as to certain matters nearly affecting General Colvile's claim to consideration. I think he adopted a view which we all endorse when he explained lately in the case of Sir George White and others that their general service was to be taken into account in estimating any particular defect of theirs. I submit he was bound to do that in General Colvile's case. The right hon. Gentleman told the House, in answer to a question, that General Colvile had sent on to the Commander-in-Chief no report on the battle of Paardeberg. The fact is that he did send in such a report, but the right hon. Gentleman did not know even a few weeks ago that any report was sent to Lord Roberts. That report is here. I can give it to the right hon. gentleman. I have evidence of its being written at the time, the evidence of the officer who wrote it to dictation from General Colvile, and the evidence of a letter from Lord Roberts's secretary, who wrote requiring some little alterations in it—of no importance—and this despatch bears so closely on General Colvile's services in this war that no judgment of his case can possibly be complete or final until it is taken into account. But the case itself amply justifies the demand for inquiry. Consider the steps by which this matter has reached its present unhappy position. On the 29th of June Lord Roberts had an interview with General Colvile at Pretoria, an interview which lasted a quarter of an hour. At that interview the affairs at Sanna's Post and Lindley were discussed. Lord Roberts said he was dissatisfied, and that he had broken up General Colvile's command; and he asked him what he would like to do. General Colvile said he wished to go home, and Lord Roberts assented. He reached this country in July, and gave Lord Wolseley a detailed account, verbally and in writing, of what took place at Sanna's Post and Lindley, After this General Colvile received a memorandum from Lord Roberts on Sanna's Post, dated 21st of May, and I offer that to the right hon. Gentleman as an interesting specimen for his museum of military delays.

Now, General Colvile had up to this point no official intimation that an inquiry was being made, and he was never given an opportunity of making an official defence. When he had his interview with Lord Roberts he did not know that he was on his trial. Between the 9th and 31st of August, however, a report from Lord Roberts was at last received by the War Office, and on the 15th of September General Colvile received the following letter, dated from the War Office;—

> Sir,—I am directed by the Secretary of State for War to inform you that the Commander-in-Chief has approved of your resuming the command of the Infantry Brigade at Gibraltar from the 1st of October next to complete your period of service therein, exclusive of the time you were serving in South Africa, and I am to request that you will hold yourself in readiness to embark in time to take up the duties on the above date.
>
> Please acknowledge the receipt hereof, and return enclosed family form to this department.
>
> I am, Sir,
> Your obedient servant,
> (Signed) H. C. B. FARRANT,
> A.A.G. for A.G.

Now I submit that that is a decision on General Colvile's case and conduct. I know from a personal letter that the case had been considered on the basis of Lord Roberts's report and General Colvile's statement. I know the decision was arrived at three and a half months after the Lindley incident, and two and a half months after General Colvile's conversation with Lord Roberts at Pretoria and after Lord Roberts's report to the War Office. I think we are entitled to assume that what Sir H. Colvile did in connection with the loss of the Yeomanry at Lindley was considered in the decision arrived at by Lord Wolseley. Therefore the case was tried and decided by those who had a full statement before them from both sides. Lord Roberts, when he was in Africa, had no written statements in answer to any charges. He had only the despatch of the march from Wynburg to Heilbron. He had no other statement in writing, only his recollection of the very short conversation which took place between him and General Colvile at Pretoria. Now his case having, as I say, been considered, the House will easily imagine the surprise with which General Colvile received a letter some months after marked "Confidential," but which I do not now treat as a confidential letter for several reasons, which will be apparent to the House when I read it. In the first place, it was the only official intimation which he received of his having been deprived of his command; secondly, it contained the only statement of the grounds on which he was removed; thirdly, a copy was sent to Sir George White; and, fourthly, that the letter was subsequently referred to in official correspondence. Such a letter as this I cannot, having passed, treat as confidential. The letter runs as follows—

> War Office, 16th December, 1900.
>
> My dear General,—In the temporary absence of the Military Secretary, an unpleasant duty devolves on me.
>
> The Secretary of State having discussed by telegraph the incidents of the surrender of No. XIII. Imperial Yeomanry battalion, concurs with Lord Roberts that you were mainly responsible for the surrender, and has reluctantly come to the conclusion that you cannot be permitted to retain your command.
>
> I am directed to request you will hand in your resignation to Sir George White on receipt of this letter and quit Gibraltar.
>
> I am sending a copy of this letter to Sir George, but do not propose to write through the usual channel, as it may be less vexatious to you if the resignation appears to be voluntary.
>
> Yours truly,
>
> (Signed) EVELYN WOOD, A.G.

That letter was subsequently, and, I venture to say, inaccurately described in a letter of the 19th January last, in which occurs the following—

> "Towards the end of December last you were informed in a confidential letter from the Adjutant-General that the Secretary of State, concurring with the recommendation by telegram from Lord Roberts, had reluctantly come to the conclusion that you could not be permitted to retain your command, and you were given the opportunity of resigning it."

In the first place, I want to call attention to the slight discrepancy—it may be nothing more—between the two statements which I want explained. The first letter states that the Secretary for War has come to the conclusion that General Colvile cannot be permitted to retain his command, and the second letter states that the Secretary of State concurs in the recommendation by telegram from Lord Roberts. Did the recommendation come from Lord Roberts and the right hon. Gentleman concur, or did the right hon. Gentleman receive a military criticism from Lord Roberts and initiate the recommendation? A simple question to which I desire an answer is, Did Lord Roberts know or did he not when he arrived at Gibraltar that General Colvile had been removed? There is a very gross inaccuracy in the second letter in the statement that "you were given an opportunity to resign." The real fact appears to be that General Colvile was not given any opportunity to resign even if he chose. He saw Sir George White and said he refused to resign, and Sir George White's reply was that his command had become vacant, and that his instructions were that General Colvile must quit Gibraltar immediately. If that is voluntary resignation I do not know what compulsion is, unless it means that General Colvile was to be taken home by force. If there had been any doubt in General Colvile's mind that he had been compulsorily and finally removed it would have been put an end to by the inspired article which appeared in the *Daily Mail*.

I need say nothing more of the provocation under which General Colvile took the action he did. I do not defend that action, but I say the Government gave him great provocation—provocation that was boundless and unpardonable. I want the explanation. Why was the case of General Colvile re-opened? Why was the decision of the Commander-in-Chief reversed? Why was General Colvile removed from his command without an opportunity of meeting any charges whatever? It will be noticed that the ground of his removal was explicitly stated in Sir Evelyn Wood's letter—his failure to relieve the Yeomanry at Lindley. That was the charge on which General Colvile had been condemned. He knew of no other. Other charges had, indeed, been referred to. His action at Sanna's Post was criticised. What was wrong with it has never been stated in definite and clear terms to him since this first inquiry took place. I am quite prepared to meet what is said on that point. Another charge has been spoken of outside this House, and a statement has been attributed to those who stood high at the War Office that General Colvile was deprived of his command on a charge of cowardice. I will not stoop to meet that charge until it is made, but I cannot altogether ignore it. In view of these rumours about a charge that ought never to have been made behind a man's back, I think I am entitled to ask the right hon. Gentleman either to make that charge with evidence, if it is to be made, or else to do General Colvile justice, as I am sure he will, by disclaiming any intention of making the charge. That is all I ask. Let us, at all events, have all the charges before us, and have done with all the mystery that has been accumulating about this business. Let us have all the cards on the table, so that we may know what to think and how to act.

The matter of Lindley has been definitely alleged as the ground of General Colvile's removal, and therefore I am compelled to deal with it very shortly. I do not, of course, offer any opinion on the military questions involved. The House would properly regard such opinions as worthless; but the view has been put forward that there was that in General Colvile's action which rightly created prejudice against him—prejudice not against his military judgment and ability, but against his character as a man and a soldier. And in that connection I am bound to say something about this incident, for we require of a soldier, not only that he should be skilful and have foresight and personal courage, but that he should be chivalrous—that he should be ready to help other men and be willing to take risks on their behalf, and that he should not fight for his own hand, but in loyal comradeship with other men, and direct his efforts to the end of a victory common to him with them. I must, therefore, submit a few facts to the House. Now, what happened so far as General Colvile was concerned in connection with the Lindley episode was this. On May 19th of last year the Chief of the Staff telegraphed to General Colvile to say that the 12th Division was arriving at Wynburg, and that he should therefore join the remainder of his division at Ventersburg; that he should wait at Wynburg for a battery of Field Artillery; that he would be joined by some Eastern Province Horse on the 21st; and that the 13th Battalion of Yeomanry was to meet him on a day to be announced. On 20th May the Chief of the Staff sent the following cipher telegram:—

> "From Ventersburg the Highland Brigade march to Lindley, and thence to Heilbron. Brigade will be concentrated at Ventersburg 23rd, reach Lindley 26th, Heilbron 29th."

Those, it will be observed, were very precise instructions as to places and times. Later, on the same day, he received a second telegram from the Chief of the Staff:—

> "Only two companies of 13th Battalion of Yeomanry, and possibly one company of Lovat's Mounted Corps, will be able to join at Ventersburg, but other two Yeomanry companies will follow as soon as possible."

The House will, therefore, see that General Colvile was despatched to his destination with such haste that he was not allowed to wait for his full complement of mounted men, although they were essential to his safe progress. On 22nd May he left Wynburg. On the 23rd he arrived at Ventersburg; on the 24th he left. On the 26th, after some hours fighting, he arrived at Lindley, and on the next morning, 27th May, he marched from Lindley. He was engaged almost all day, and bivouacked in the evening north of Rhenoster River, twenty-three miles out from Lindley and nineteen miles from Heilbron, which place he had the strictest orders to reach the next day. The enemy were in front of him in numbers superior to his own, and they were also behind him and to his right. He was in that position when he received this letter—

> "Colonel Spragge to General Colvile.—Found no one in Lindley but Boers; have 500 men, but only one day's food. Stopped three miles back on Kroonstad road. I want help to get out without great loss."

It was in such circumstances that General Colvile took the decision for which he has been visited with so appalling a punishment—the termination in disgrace of his career as a soldier. Let me invite the House to consider the facts as he knew them, and his conception of the circumstances. He had definite orders to be at various places on certain days. He was told above all to be at Heilbron on 29th May, and it was never explained to him why. He knew he was hurried away from Ventersburg without waiting for the necessary mounted men; he knew that the first line of the army was within striking distance of the Vaal River; he knew that Heilbron had been occupied by General Ian Hamilton; he knew it was the depôt for General Rundle's force, and he knew that he himself was only rationed to arrive at Heilbron. It was natural to suppose from the precise orders which he had received, and from the peremptory haste with which he was sent off, that he was acting in a concerted and definite movement of which his force formed a part, and it was also natural that he should suppose that General Hamilton would be detained at Heilbron until his arrival, just as he himself had been detained at the precisely similar depôt and railway terminus of Wynburg in precisely analogous circumstances. It was natural to believe that, and the proof that he did believe it, if proof be needed, is that he sent a message from Lindley to Heilbron asking that the mounted men whom he believed to have gone there should be sent to him, as he was in need of them. That message never reached Heilbron, because General Colvile's supposition was wrong. He was not taking part in a combined movement. General Hamilton had left Heilbron, and when General Colvile got near it it, was occupied by the Boers. Still I submit that his was a natural supposition. No doubt a general is expected to exercise discretion in carrying out his orders, but he can only exercise discretion if he is given material for doing so. He cannot exercise discretion if he is not told what general plan is being followed, and to what result he is contributing. If he is given the orders of a subaltern he can only act as a subaltern. In the second place, I think it will be recognised that, in the absence of any contrary instructions or intimation, General Colvile had a knowledge of facts which compelled him to regard it as necessary that he should be at Heilbron on the 29th May whatever it might cost, because everything pointed to the necessity of his being there if Lord Roberts's plans were to be carried out. It was impossible for him to be there on 29th May if he went back to Lindley. As a matter of fact, he only reached Heilbron late in the evening of the 29th, after a good deal of fighting. It must be remembered that his force of infantrymen had only two days' rations, that they were provisioned only to Heilbron by direct route, that his ambulances were overflowing, that his ammunition was short, and that his oxen were dying on the road. It may be possible to take the view that he should have compromised the safety of his own force by going to the assistance of valuable mounted men, because mounted men were recognised by everyone as of the greatest importance. Granting that, however, I think the House will come to the conclusion that the view he had formed was perfectly intelligible and just, and I believe would commend itself in all the circumstances to military men. Moreover, in view of the circumstances and of what he believed to be Lord Roberts's intentions, he was bound to lead his force out, and that was his decision. He wrote to Colonel Spragge explaining his position, and advising him to retire on Kroonstad. Colonel Spragge had not said that he could not retire, but that he could retire with loss. It was General Colvile's view that he could retire, and he sent a message advising him to do so. I do not know whether that message ever reached Colonel Spragge or not, we know so little of the circumstances. Three messengers were sent to carry the message, but they were intercepted by the Boers, and a fourth messenger got to the railway in the evening, but whether Colonel Spragge actually received the message or not I do not know. As I have spoken of the Yeomanry I should like to say, in case there might be any misunderstanding, that I, for my part, do not wish to impute any blame to the Yeomanry who surrendered. The circumstances were fully stated in a manner very gratifying to the House by the right hon. Gentleman. It must be remembered that they were summoned to Lindley, and that they believed that General Colvile had telegraphed for them. They received a telegram asking them to come to Lindley, a telegram which was afterwards proved to have been forged by the Boers, because it purported to have left Lindley before General Colvile arrived there. They believed they had been summoned to Lindley; they were therefore perfectly entitled to expect help, and they were bound to remain. I do not pose as a military expert, but it should be remembered in any judgment formed of the Yeomanry that they surrendered, not because they could not in the first instance have escaped, but because they would not escape, as they considered that that would mean that they had failed to do what had been expected of them. I desire the House, however, to believe that this action of General Colvile's is not merely a case of a selfish, callous, unchivalrous disregard of other men. I submit that hon. Members should remove from their minds any erroneous impression of that kind which would prejudice them against the demand for an inquiry.

I have very little more to add, and I apologise to the House for having troubled it at such length. The question I submit is whether in the case that I have laid before the House there is not something that demands inquiry. I fully admit the right of the Commander-in-Chief to control the discipline of the Army, but that is a right which, like every other right, is to be exercised subject to the control, the criticism, the censure of this House. The responsibility for its exercise rests primarily and finally with us, because it is a right which is derived from those whom we represent in this House, and I am bound to say that I think that the House cannot rid itself of the responsibility for seeing that justice is done to the soldier whose honour and fortunes are placed in its hands to-night, without any reserve or doubt or hesitation. I ask hon. Members to consider whether it would be in accord with our best sense of justice and equal rights to re-try a man already acquitted, to condemn a man on an accusation of which he was never informed, and to punish him on evidence which he has never been allowed to challenge. It must be remembered that this is not merely a case of disciplinary regulation of the Army. It is not merely a case of not offering employment to a general out of employment. This is the removal of a soldier from his command, and that is punishment—punishment which it is impossible for any words of mine to exaggerate. What greater punishment could you inflict on a man? You take from him in one act his career and his reputation with every circumstance of contumely and disgrace. He has worked all his life for his profession and the goodwill of his fellow countrymen. You deprive him of both without even the form of a trial. Who is this man? He is a soldier who has given to the arms of this country thirty years of brilliant service. He served you in the Nile campaign in 1884, and his name will be found mentioned to his honour in the despatches on El Teb and Tamai. On many occasions he was the only white man in charge of black troops on difficult expeditions, and twice he was sent single-handed to deal with mutinous or doubtful black troops. He fought in Burma and in the Toka expedition, and he rendered to the Imperial policy of this country in Uganda services of which I have heard those who were in charge of the foreign affairs of this country at the time speak in terms of grateful admiration. He is a scientific soldier who was appointed only a few years ago as umpire at the manœuvres on Salisbury Plain. [An HON. MEMBER laughed.] I am merely showing that to a man who had a first-rate position in the Army is being meted out punishment which could not be given to a common soldier in the ranks. Only once in these thirty years has he been the subject of an accusation. In 1885 he was accused by Major Kitchener of murdering six natives. The charge was investigated and was found to be devoid of foundation. Consider what his record is in the present war. He was sent to South Africa in charge of the Brigade of Guards. He served under Lord Methuen at Belmont, at the Modder River, and at Magersfontein, and he was referred to in despatches again and again in terms of the highest praise. Lord Methuen writes in one of his despatches (to select one case only out of many): "Major-General Colvile has already gained my entire confidence; nothing is ever likely to shake his coolness." Lord Roberts appointed General Colvile to command the Ninth Division, and during the following three weeks he was actively engaged in the operations which culminated at Paardeberg. In relation to that victory his countrymen are under a debt of gratitude to General Colvile, of which, I believe, they are not sufficiently aware, for I have the high authority of Lord Roberts for urging that it was General Colvile who counselled and devised the brilliant attack of 27th February, by which a doubtful and critical position was turned into a decisive and fruitful victory. This is the man whose counsel and decision won the battle of Paardeberg — the greatest and most comprehensive victory in the campaign—and the right hon. Gentleman has devised for him a fitting reward,

Is it well that this officer should be punished untried? That is the question which I place before the House. I am bound to say that I feel myself completely justified in having raised this question, when I reflect on the confusion and uncertainty which have been displayed—the vacillation of the War Office and then its blundering precipitancy—the puzzled consternation with which the country has regarded the right hon. Gentleman's proceedings, and the dismay with which the Army has viewed the somewhat rudimentary conception of justice which he has lately unfolded with so much simplicity. Let me repeat once more that the discipline of the Army must be despotic, but I submit that the more despotic the administration the more necessary is it that your actions should be wise and just. I am not so foolish as not to recognise the difficulty of challenging a decision arrived at by a brilliant and experienced Minister, especially when it is supported, as we are given to understand it is supported, by a Commander-in-Chief whom the people of this country regard with a gratitude and an admiration of which I shall not presume to say more than this—that they have been earned over and over again not only by his heroic services, but by the noble example of his life. Yet I do so appeal in this House of Commons from this exercise of their despotic authority, to a despotism that is above all despotism, and an authority that is over every authority —to the great necessity to which the mind of every man in this House will bow, that justice and fair play shall guide our decisions and govern our actions.

That is all I have to say. I thank the House for its consideration, and perhaps I may be allowed to submit one request to it. I am sure that in the minds of some hon. Members there must be some doubt as to the propriety of my action in raising this matter, and it is still more certain that by the manner in which I have done it, I may have given offence to those whom I would not willingly offend; well, let all that be my business. I beg hon. Members not to allow any mistakes of judgment on my part to prejudice them against the gallant and distinguished soldier whose case I have laid before the House.

Mr. GRETTON (Derbyshire, S.): I cannot keep silent when an appeal has been put before the House to obtain justice for a distinguished constituent of mine. We appeal for a full and a fair inquiry. I pass by the professional questions, which may be more fittingly referred to the court of inquiry which we are appealing to the House of Commons to support us in demanding, and I will only call attention to the very anomalous position in which the whole question is placed by the fact that it had already been investigated by the right hon. Gentleman's predecessor and the distinguished officer who recently held the position of Commander-in-Chief. A decision was arrived at by these two distinguished gentlemen. Then there was a change in the officials of the War Office, and with that change there came a practical reversal of the decision, without any reference to the man chiefly affected. I appeal to this distinguished assembly to support us in asking for this inquiry. We do not want to prejudge the case, but I think with the hon. Gentleman opposite that there is a *prima facie* case for a full, fair, and open inquiry. If the decision of the right hon. Gentleman is proved to be correct, then the country will be satisfied, and if it is proved to be wrong an injustice will be removed from a distinguished officer, and the House will have the satisfaction of knowing that justice has been done. The case has raised a great deal of feeling outside the House. In my own constituency petitions have been very largely signed asking for an inquiry, and in many parts of the country doubts have arisen as to the justice of the decision of the War Office. I appeal to hon. Member to listen with fair and calm minds to both sides, and to judge without prejudice, and I think they will see that there is a strong case indeed for an inquiry.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out from the word 'That,' to the end of the Question, in order to add the words 'in the opinion of this House, the public interest requires that a complete and immediate inquiry be made into all the circumstances connected with the removal from his command at Gibraltar of Major General Sir Henry Colvile, K.C.M.G., C.B.,' instead thereof."—(*Mr. Charles Douglas.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

*MR. BRODRICK: Mr. Speaker, I am sure that those who have listened to the two speeches of the hon. Gentlemen in support of the Amendment on this very delicate subject will be glad that the question has fallen into hands at once so capable and so moderate, because I think it is very important that we should discuss questions of this kind with the dignity which befits an assembly like the House of Commons. I confess that my own feelings in the matter are partly feelings of relief and partly of regret—relief because of opportunity of connecting a great many statements which have appeared about this case, and from what the hon. Member has said apparently a considerable amount of misapprehension prevails; but much more of regret because the motion which has been made makes it necessary for me to say things which I would rather have left unsaid about an officer who in the past has had an honourable career in Her Majesty's service. I do not say it in any way as a reproach to the hon. Members, but it is noticeable that this case should have fallen into the hands of two hon. Members neither of whom has any special knowledge of the campaign in South Africa, and neither of whom has any military experience; and I note that the more because the House of Commons has a large number of Members at this moment who fulfil those conditions. I am sure the House will not complain if, as I am forced to discuss the question, I tell the House the truth, and the whole truth, with regard to it. As far as I am concerned, I have nothing to apologise for in the course which has been taken by the War Office with regard to the late proceedings against Sir Henry Colvile.

I should like to clear away two misconceptions which have not found their way into the speeches this evening, but about which a great deal has been said, and therefore if I did not contradict further misconception might possibly be produced. The first is that in this reconsideration of Sir Henry Colvile's case I acted on my own initiative and responsibility, without the advice of the military authorities who are bound to advise me in the circumstances. I shall show that this is absolutely the reverse of the fact. The second point, which I would not have referred to if it had not played a part in the statement of General Colvile himself, is the suggestion that the particular corps which was the subject of the Lindley inquiry—namely, the Yeomanry—had some special form of influence which it brought to bear, and which had in some way affected the decision. I think it due to that corps to say—I should not think it necessary to say it on my own behalf to the House—that no member of the corps, any friend of the corps, or any one directly or indirectly connected with the corps had ever in any way approached me—or, so far as I am aware, any member of the War Office—on the subject. They suffered severely in action. They felt, as all Englishmen would feel, the fate which fell upon them acutely; and they took their beating and subsequent hardships like soldiers. They never, so far as I am aware, attempted to get any interference on their behalf or any consideration of their case except such as the military authorities would naturally give to it.

I will mention as briefly as I can what were the points which brought Lord Roberts's censure on General Colvile. The first was the action at Sanna's Post on 31st March last year. I will recapitulate in a few words what the position was at Sanna's Post when General Colvile and his command arrived there. General Broadwood, with the cavalry brigade and horse artillery, had been attacked by the enemy in the neighbourhood of Thaba Nchu, about twenty miles to the east of Sanna's Post. General Broadwood on the day before the action at Sanna's Post was warned about eleven o'clock that a force of Boers was advancing upon him. His outposts were about seven miles out, and they were told to hold the Boers as best they could. He telegraphed to Lord Roberts that he intended to fall back on the waterworks, and he proceeded to hold the Boers at a distance while his convoy got into line of march and fought its way to the waterworks at Sanna's Post. The effect of that was that the convoy arrived there during the night, and General Broadwood and his cavalry found his way to bivouac at three o'clock in the morning of the 31st. Before dawn came, however, the Boer guns opened on the whole bivouac and from the neighbouring hills. I have never myself been in such a position, but hon. Members who have been are aware that whatever may be done extreme confusion is certain to result—shells bursting among a number of natives and horses and mules stampeding. The consequence was that General Broadwood's convoy was in the greatest confusion; he despatched two batteries of horse artillery and mounted infantry to protect the convoy, and himself went with the cavalry to make head against the enemy. Without General Broadwood's knowledge the Boers had seized a spruit which had to be crossed by the convoy. They seized the convoy as it came across, and they seized one gun after another, and a most desperate struggle ensued. The horse artillery managed to get out somehow and save five of their guns by an amount of hard fighting, perseverance, and courage which I do not suppose has been surpassed in any action in the war. But General Broadwood, when he fell back, found the remnant of his horse artillery and mounted infantry in dire difficulties. He had himself to fight his way across the spruit, going some miles down, and after a very serious further opposition from the enemy he made his way to the near side of the spruit at Bloemfontein and began to draw up his scattered forces. That was at eleven o'clock on the 31st. General Broadwood had then been marching and fighting without intermission, except for an hour and a half, from eleven o'clock on the preceding day. His horses and his men had not been fed since four o'clock on the previous day and were all in a state of exhaustion. They had lost about one-third of their strength, seven of their guns, and the whole of their baggage. That was the moment when General Colvile's command, consisting of about 4,000 fresh troops, arrived at Bushman's Kop, situated about two and a half miles from the post where General Broadwood was then drawn up. I am not now talking of anything that is in dispute, and anything that I have to state to the House, either as to this action or that at Lindley, will not be, so far as I am aware, of a character that is disputed by General Colvile. I propose to lay on the Table of the House, after I have quoted from it, the explanation which General Colvile himself gave. General Colvile arrived at Bushman's Kop at about eleven o'clock. At that moment the position was as I have stated, but what remained of General Broadwood's force was then within two and a half miles of him, and also on the Bloemfontein side of the spruit. At that moment the guns which had been taken had not yet been moved off, and as far as I myself can make out, from what I have read and heard officially on the subject, those guns were not removed until between twelve and one o'clock in the day.

MR. YERBURGH (Chester): I am very sorry to interrupt my right hon. friend, but he said that he was not making any statement disputed by General Colvile. But General Colvile distinctly traverses the statement that these guns were not removed until between twelve and one.

*MR. BRODRICK: I extremely regret that I have to make this admission—General Colvile did not take the means to ascertain where the guns were, and the evidence I am obliged to give on that point is that of the other officers, who were in a position to give it. I was aware that General Colvile disputed that those guns had not been removed, but I was not aware that he disputed that they were not removed until between twelve and one.

MR. YERBURGH: I think it is in his evidence.

*MR. BRODRICK: General Colvile's own explanation was, that on arriving at Bushman's Kop he was informed that General Broadwood's brigade was then forming up about two miles to the east-ward. He at once sent his Deputy Assistant Adjutant General, Captain Ruggles-Brise, to General Broadwood with a message that he wished to see him. On his return Captain Ruggles-Brise reported that General Broadwood replied that he was too tired to come. "Under ordinary circumstances," said General Colvile, "I should have taken serious notice of such an answer, but as I gathered that under the circumstances in which he found himself, General Broadwood appeared to be completely broken down and incapable of co-operation, I thought it better to let it pass." Lord Roberts subsequently had occasion to comment on what appears to me to be an extraordinary narrative. The general whom he had sent to relieve General Broadwood and assist him, being himself two and a half miles from the scene of action, sent to General Broadwood an order to leave his troops, which were still in touch with the enemy, while there was still firing going on, in order to come two and a half miles to the rear to confer with General Colvile as to what was to be done. Lord Roberts thought it an action which was in itself a mistake, and he thought that in the situation in which General Broadwood found himself he was amply justified in refusing to leave his troops. I would sooner not have to inform the House what followed. General Colvile appears to have taken, as his own words show, serious exception to General Broadwood's behaviour. Even in his own account to Lord Roberts he practically takes credit that he did not immediately call to account from a disciplinary standpoint the officer who was commanding these hungry and wearied men still fighting with the enemy. But it is almost impossible to realise the state of mind which caused General Colvile to take the action he did after eleven o'clock that day. At a moment when information as to the enemy's position was of the highest value, when he himself has admitted that it was imperative that he and General Broadwood should come together, on General Broadwood's explaining that he was unable to leave his troops General Colvile made no further effort whatever to come into touch with him. At an hour of the day when every moment was of importance with regard to the rescue of the guns, General Colvile, by his own account, waited till nearly two o'clock without taking any steps in any direction whatever. At the moment when it was of the utmost importance that by bringing forward these fresh troops he should do what he could to restore confidence, he left General Broadwood's shattered force severely alone; and finally, without receiving any further indication from General Broadwood as to his situation, he marched his troops in another direction. General Colvile states that he had no intimation of the suggestion which Brigadier General Broadwood reports, that a direct advance on the spruit offered the best chance of assistance. Whichever way that statement cuts, it cuts, I fear, against General Colvile. General Broadwood states that he made that intimation. If he did not make it, then General Colvile neither knew what General Broadwood wished him to do, nor took pains to find it out. As between two generals in the field within two and a half miles of one another, one of whom possessed information but the other did not, that conduct seemed to Lord Roberts, and will seem, I think, to the House, very extraordinary. The result—the net result of these operations was this, that, after having left the men he had been sent to help without assistance, General Colvile blundered about with his force—when I use that word I mean he moved without proper guidance to show him where to go—until dark, when his men were wearied out; and after they had marched twenty-three miles evening came on, and in the meantime the Boers had carried off the guns quietly and unmolested. Lord Roberts considered that he had shown a want of enterprise in this matter, which had the worst possible effect on those whom he had to lead and those whom he had to relieve. One at least of the brigadiers finally endeavoured to get General Colvile where he ought to have marched—straight up to the enemy.

Mr. YERBURGH: What was the opinion of the other general with Sir Henry Colvile?

*Mr. BRODRICK: I do not think, Sir, I am in possession of the other general's opinion. I have seen in General Colvile's own handwriting, in a letter that was not marked private, that he was not in the habit of taking the opinions of his subordinates. As the result of what happened, General Colvile lost Lord Roberts's confidence. Lord Roberts had not an opportunity for some time of hearing all the facts. General Broadwood's report did not reach him for three weeks afterwards. General Colvile's reply to General Broadwood did not reach him for a much longer period, and meantime Lord Roberts thought the best course was to take General Colvile away from the division and send him further back with a less command; and he awaited, with that moderation which has always distinguished him, the full knowledge of the event before he finally dealt with General Colvile's case. Unfortunately, before that occurred a fresh incident had taken place. I do not want to labour any of the incidents. General Colvile says he did know the Yeomanry were coming, and that he himself started on his march in the firm belief that his duty was simply to confine himself——

*MR. CHARLES DOUGLAS: I do not think I said, and I did not intend to say, he did not know the Yeomanry were coming. What he did not know was that they would come by that route. He expected, reasonably, that they would go by another route.

*MR. BRODRICK: All these questions of the telegrams are quite immaterial to the case I have to present to the House, which is of the simplest character. General Colvile marched from Lindley on 27th May. When he had got to a point which the hon. Member calls twenty-three miles off, but is called by others eighteen miles, he received this message from Colonel Spragge, which he himself quotes:

> "Colonel Spragge to General Colville.—Found no one in Lindley but Boers. Five hundred men and only one day's food. Have stopped three miles back on the Kroonstad road. We want help to get out without great loss.—(Signed) B. SPRAGGE, Colonel."

General Colvile received that message early on the morning of May 28th. As to whether General Colvile should have gone forward or back, that is a question with which I think military men are more fitted to deal than any of us who have not military experience. But I can say only this—that General Colvile was eighteen, twenty, or twenty-three miles from the scene of action, that he got this demand from a body of troops undoubtedly in difficulties, and that he had no means of knowing that they could get out of them without surrender. Other generals took a different course from his. Lord Methuen, who was forty-four miles away, marched forty-four miles in twenty-seven hours in trying to relieve the Yeomanry. General Rundle, who was forty-five miles off, threw himself on the Boers in front of him in an attempt to draw them off Lindley. He incurred a loss of 150 men, and even then he could not get through. The one man who sent back a message to this earnest appeal that Colonel Spragge was to find his way out of his difficulties as best he could was the only officer in the Army who twice within eight weeks left a body of troops in difficulties without making the slightest effort to relieve them. There is a French maxim to which the great Napoleon expected his generals to conform—*Marcher toujours au feu.* That is the maxim of our Army for all time. It has always been the maxim of our Army that when a body of your own troops are in difficulties you must go straight for them.

I will state as briefly as possible why, when he had come home in consequence of these operations, Lord Roberts found it necessary to raise the question again. Lord Wolseley looked into the question and made a recommendation to Lord Lansdowne. He thought that General Colvile should be allowed to return to Gibraltar. But there were two points which had altered. The first was that when the court of inquiry with regard to Lindley came before me at the beginning of December it was clearly proved that Colonel Spragge's surrender was not due to any default of Colonel Spragge himself; that he could never have got out of his own difficulties; that he had done all that man could do, and that he and those who were with him were guiltless of any lack of military talent in having to surrender. But there was another point. As far as I was concerned, I did not take up this question, as has been suggested, as a mere question of seizing on something and then framing a charge against an officer already tried. The result of the inquiry was brought before me by the acting Commander-in-Chief, Sir Evelyn Wood, who made various recommendations. I saw by the official Papers that though Lord Wolseley had made a recommendation to Lord Lansdowne, and had before him an official report as to General Colvile's conduct in the field by Lord Roberts, yet Lord Wolseley had never communicated with Lord Roberts, and had never asked his opinion as to whether the employment of General Colvile in the field being deemed to be undesirable, his employment at home was not also undesirable. It seems to me that there was no opinion on that point so important as the opinion of Lord Roberts, under whom General Colvile had served. I was asked by the hon. Member to say directly, did Lord Roberts know, before he arrived at Gibraltar, that General Colvile was to be removed? Most unquestionably he did. On Sir Evelyn Wood's making this recommendation, I telegraphed to Lord Roberts and mentioned to him that the effect of the court of inquiry at Lindley seemed to bear upon General Colvile's position, and I asked him for his opinion. He stated his opinion unhesitatingly in agreement with that of the Acting Commander-in-Chief, that General Colvile should not be allowed to retain his position at Gibraltar. I had no alternative in the matter. I know that I took a responsibility in regard to it; but I put it to the House, should I not have taken a much greater responsibility if, in face of the recommendations of the man under whom General Colvile had served and the officer who advised me at home, I had retained him in a command which, in their opinion, it was not desirable he should fill? The Secretary of State has the power, of course, of over-riding all his military advisers; but I do not think that the House of Commons will hold that, as a rule, in such cases, he would be wise in doing so. What I did was to direct that, in the circumstances, General Colvile should be communicated with quietly and should be given an opportunity of resigning. The hon. Member said that was compulsory resignation. It may have been; but it would have proceeded from General Colvile himself; and it would not have been necessary to call public attention to it. If General Colvile had intimated his desire to resign his command at Gibraltar, no further notice of any kind would have been taken.

*Mr. CHARLES DOUGLAS: My point is that that is not voluntary which one is compelled to do.

*Mr. BRODRICK: The question is whether a public stigma would have been put upon General Colvile. That is what I wished to avoid. After that General Colvile's action cannot be defended by anyone. He left for England. He did not avail himself of his right of appeal to the Commander-in-Chief. He made no representation to the War Office. He immediately published what he called a justification, but which consisted rather of an attack upon the staff officers in the Transvaal; and which also included, I regret to say, what appeared to be some ungenerous sneers against the cavalry whom he had found it impossible to relieve. And obviously it is impossible that officers, whether on the Full-pay List or the Half-pay List, should be allowed to make reflections on their superiors as General Colvile did. He was placed on retired pay, and any officer who follows his example will necessarily share the same fate.

I will just say distinctly what is Lord Roberts's opinion with regard to General Colvile's position. I will say, first, that Lord Wolseley by no means exonerated him when he allowed him to go back to Gibraltar. On the contrary, he stated his view in regard to Sanna's Post, that whether he could have captured the guns or not he ought to have tried. Lord Roberts stated that, in his opinion, on two occasions in the field General Colvile had shown a want of forwardness, of enterprise, and of sound judgment which are essential qualifications for a command. He considered that in twice leaving a body of cavalry in difficulties he set an example which, if followed, would be fatal to an army in the field. Other circumstances had come to Lord Roberts's notice in which General Colvile's relations with his subordinates and the absence of sufficient control and supervision in his command, were such as to seriously impair the confidence which troops should have in their leaders. I make that statement by Lord Roberts's desire. Under these conditions Lord Roberts felt that the retention of General Colvile in his command at Gibraltar, being in principle indefensible, would have a prejudicial effect on the army in South Africa, and, in agreeing that he should not be retained in command, Lord

Roberts considered that even then he would be dealt with much more leniently than would have been the case had he been brought to a court-martial for his conduct at Sanna's Post and Lindley. I am myself strongly in favour, where possible, of bringing an officer to a court-martial; but I am not at all convinced that, if this House does not accept the views of Lord Roberts, Sir Evelyn Wood, Lord Kitchener, and other officers of that character, it will more readily accept the views of officers of less distinction who may preside over the court-martial.

I would like to say one word as to my own action in the matter. I have had to remove a considerable number of officers on different grounds. Those officers mostly have no high connections, no powerful friends, no access to the press, but their career is every bit as important to them, and the tragedy of the loss of their position is every bit as great as that of the highest placed officer in the Army. In this case there is no private pressure which could be exerted upon me which has not been exerted. There is no degree of false statement in the press which has not been made in certain organs; there has been a continuous stream of attempts to influence, corruptly as I consider, the judgment of those who were forced to come to a decision against a general who had this distinction only as compared with other officers—that he had occupied the unique position of commanding the Brigade of Guards. I am willing to take any odium on myself in such matters, but I will not give way to this sort of clamour. I will not accept the view that because a man has powerful friends he is to be retained in a command for which nearly every man who served in South Africa, knowing that he had been sent home for incapacity in the field, considered him unfit. To that I will stand, whether I am attacked or applauded, whether I am criticised or encouraged, whether I am followed or not followed. So long as I hold the position I now hold these things shall not be done with impunity. Lord Roberts has received every distinction that a man can receive from a grateful Sovereign and from his fellow-countrymen, but all those decorations that have been so fitly worn and all those high titles so nobly won would be as travesty and tinsel if they are not to be accompanied by the confidence of his fellow-countrymen with respect to his decision as to comrades with whom he has served in the profession to which he has given his life. It is for that reason that I earnestly beg the House to put confidence in the Government in these matters.

I hope the hon. Member will not think it necessary to divide on this motion. I should regret the acceptance of it more than any motion that could be put before the House at this moment. I ask the House to have some confidence in the Commander-in-Chief, and not to open the door more widely to proposals of this character, and to remember that if these decisions are to be made the subject of continued discussion in this House, they must militate against the discipline of the Army, and are not likely to add to the credit of the House of Commons.

It being midnight, the debate stood adjourned.

Debate to be resumed to-morrow.

SUPPLY [4TH MARCH].

Resolutions reported:—

NAVY (SUPPLEMENTARY) ESTIMATES, 1900–1901.

1. "That an additional number of men and boys, not exceeding 600, be employed for the Sea and Coast Guard Services for the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901."

2. "That an additional sum, not exceeding £1,250,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for additional Expenditure on the following Navy Services, viz.:—

	£
Vote 1. Wages, etc., of Officers, etc.	500
Vote 2. Victualling and Clothing for the Navy	84,000
Vote 8. Shipbuilding, Repairs, Maintenance, etc.:—	
Section I. Personnel.	98,500
Section II. Matériel ..	630,000
Section III. Contract Work	207,000
Vote 11. Miscellaneous Effective Services ..	230,000
Total	£1,250,000."

Resolutions agreed to.

Adjourned at five minutes after Twelve of the clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Tuesday, 12th March, 1901.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

WATFORD AND DISTRICT TRAMWAYS BILL [H.L.].

Examiner's Certificates of non-compliance with the Standing Orders referred to the Standing Orders Committee on Tuesday next.

PICCADILLY AND CITY RAILWAY BILL [H.L.].

A petition of Messrs. Banter and Company, of 12, Victoria Street, Westminster, parliamentary agents, praying for leave to present a petition of the Reverend John Fenwick Kitto, praying to be heard by counsel against the Bill, although the time limited by Standing Order No. 92 for presenting such petition has expired; read, and ordered to lie on the Table; and Standing Order No. 92 to be considered on Thursday next, in order to its being dispensed with in respect of the said petition.

MILFORD DOCKS BILL [H.L.].

HARPENDEN DISTRICT GAS BILL [H.L.].

Read 2^a.

HARROGATE WATER BILL [H.L.].

Standing Order No. 92 considered (according to order), and dispensed with with respect to a Petition of Leeds Corporation. Leave given to present the said petition.

AIRE AND CALDER NAVIGATION BILL [H.L.].

CENTRAL LONDON RAILWAY BILL [H.L.].

CHESTER GAS BILL [H.L.].

CITY AND BRIXTON RAILWAY BILL [H.L.].

CITY AND SOUTH LONDON RAILWAY BILL [H.L.].

LLANELLY AND MYNYDD MAWR RAILWAY BILL [H.L.].

LONDON, BRIGHTON, AND SOUTH COAST RAILWAY BILL [H.L.].

NEWPORT (ISLE OF WIGHT) GAS BILL [H.L.].

SOUTH EASTERN AND LONDON, CHATHAM, AND DOVER RAILWAY BILL [H.L.].

SOUTH ESSEX WATER BILL [H.L.].

Committed. The Committees to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

BATH GAS LIGHT AND COKE BILL [H.L.].

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE AND GATESHEAD GAS BILL [H.L.].

NEW SWINDON GAS BILL [H.L.].

SHREWSBURY GAS BILL [H.L.].

Committed.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

GOLD COAST.

Correspondence relating to the Ashanti War, 1900.

COLONIES (ANNUAL).

No. 317. Jamaica, Report for 1899–1900.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

No. 2560. Spain (1899).

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS, AND VACCINATION (SCOTLAND).

Forty-sixth Annual Report by the Registrar General in Scotland, for the year 1900; and Thirty-sixth Annual Report on Vaccination.

ARMY.

Correspondence relative to the recall of Lieut.-General Sir H. E. Colvile, K.C.M.G., C.B.

Presented (by command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

PIERS AND HARBOUR ACTS (PROVISIONAL ORDERS, SESSION 1901).

Report by the Board of Trade of their proceedings under the General Pier and Harbour Act, 1861, and the General Pier and Harbour Act, 1861, Amendment Act.

PHARMACY (IRELAND) ACTS, 1875 AND 1890.

Order in Council, dated 7th March, 1901, approving of a regulation made by the Pharmaceutical Society.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

BERWICKSHIRE COUNTY TOWN BILL.

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

*THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Lord BALFOUR of BURLEIGH): My Lords, the circumstances under which this Bill is presented to the House are these: So long ago as 1692 Greenlaw was made the head burgh of the county of Berwick by an Act of the Scottish Parliament. About fifty years ago that was so far altered that ordinary courts are allowed to be held at Duns as well as at Greenlaw; but small debt courts and criminal cases tried by jury are kept at Greenlaw, and also at that place there are kept all the county records. The distribution of jurisdiction has been felt to be a great inconvenience. Duns is now much more accessible than Greenlaw by modern methods of communication, and is also a more important town. It is proposed, therefore, to transfer to Duns the records and all the Sheriff Court business, and to give it the status of head burgh. I believe there is no opposition to the Bill. It is, I know, supported by the county council, and I hope your Lordships will agree to pass it.

Moved, "That the Bill be read a second time."—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

On Question, agreed to; Bill read 2^a accordingly, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Tuesday next.

CREMATION BILL [H.L.].

Read 3^a (according to order); an Amendment (privilege) made; Bill passed, and sent to the Commons.

PRIVATE LEGISLATION PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1899.

Report from the Committee of Selection proposing that the Lords following form the Parliamentary Panel of Members of this House to act as Commissioners under the Act, viz.:—

E. Mansfield.
E. Camperdown.
L. Clifford of Chudleigh.
L. Torphichen.
L. Belhaven and Stenton.
L. Fairlie (*E. Glasgow*).

Considered (according to order) and agreed to.

House adjourned at twenty-five minutes before Five of the clock, to Thursday next, half-past Ten of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Tuesday, 12*th March*, 1901.

Another Member made and subscribed the Affirmation required by law.

PRIVATE BILLS (STANDING ORDER 63 COMPLIED WITH).

MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order No. 63 has been complied with, namely:—

Golborne Gas Bill.

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time.

WOLVERHAMPTON CORPORATION WATER BILL. (BY ORDER.)

Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

*MR. ALEXANDER BROWN (Shropshire, Wellington) said he regretted opposing the Second Reading of the Bill, because he was aware that the House was always anxious to get private Bill business out of the way as quickly as possible, and that the general practice was to send private Bills to a Select Committee. Had this been an ordinary case he thought that would have been the proper course to take, but he now proposed to move that the Bill be read a second time that day six months, because of exceptional circumstances. In most large towns it was obvious that the question of water supply was one of growing difficulty. He admitted that in some large towns the water supply must be considered to be a matter of public necessity, which should override private rights; but in this particular case there were circumstances which altered that presumption, which he would explain. The case of Wolverhampton differed from that of many other towns, because by reason of legislation which had been passed they had had the opportunity of getting all the water they wanted, and there was no reason or necessity for them to come to Parliament at present for powers. The facts were very simple. In 1892 the House was engaged in considering a very large and magnificent scheme of water supply for Birmingham. As a Member of Parliament at that time, he remembered there was a great discussion upon that Bill, and that the proposal to go to South Wales for water for Birmingham met with a great deal of discussion, and much was said for and against the scheme. During the passage of that Bill through the House, at the instance of Wolverhampton, a clause was inserted, giving power to Wolverhampton under the Birmingham Act of 1892 to obtain water on demand from the Birmingham Corporation. That was the position of the law now, and Wolverhampton would be able, when the works were completed, to send in a requisition to Birmingham to get the water for its own population which it no doubt needed. They contended, therefore, that there was no need for Wolverhampton to come forward and ask for another independent supply when an enactment of the House had already given them the proper remedy. Before going into the case itself, which was really very simple, he would refer to Clause 62 of the Birmingham Bill, which gave power to Wolverhampton to demand water on giving one year's notice, and to demand a supply equal to 25 gallons per head of the population, and the cost of such supply was a charge regulated on a four per cent. basis. There was nothing in those provisions at all onerous or hard upon Wolverhampton, and the proper step for them to take would be to proceed with the powers under the Act, and apply to Birmingham as soon as possible. There was no need for them to come to Shropshire and put down works which would undoubtedly do great damage to the county and to the works in the Borough of Wenlock, and under the circumstances he thought the Bill ought not to be read a second time. Two reasons had been alleged why that Bill should be brought in as an alternative to the power that Wolverhampton already had to go to Birmingham. He had an extract from a speech by Mr. Alderman Marston, reported in the *Midland Evening News* of 5th January last, when the Chairman of the Water Company had been explaining his view of the matter, and had urged for consideration two facts which he said ought to bring him support for this Bill. The first was the time in which the supply was to be obtained, and the second the cost. Undoubtedly Wolverhampton wanted the water quickly, but he would point out that the Birmingham scheme could come into operation by 1902, and although there might be a delay, he thought that within two years, at any rate, the water would be in the neighbourhood of Wolverhampton. But this Bill provided five years for works, and ten years for compulsory powers. Therefore, if the element of time was to be considered it was obvious that by going to Birmingham they would get the water which Wolverhampton wanted quicker than by going for powers under this Bill. As to cost, he took Alderman Marston's figures. That gentleman estimated that the cost of going to Birmingham would be £80,000, and that that would be the capital charge laid upon Wolverhampton. But by this Bill the capital charge that was going to be laid upon them was £200,000. Therefore, if there was anything to be said on the element of cost, it was obviously in favour of the Birmingham scheme. Therefore he thought that upon those points there was evidence that the Second Reading of this Bill should not be agreed to, and if Wolverhampton wanted water it should hasten to give notice to Birmingham, and to get the water when Birmingham herself got it. His first contention was that if water was wanted Wolverhampton ought to put in force the powers of the Act of 1892, and that it was unfair to go to other quarters. As to the case of Shropshire against the Bill, that was a case which rested upon two grounds. There were large interests which it was alleged would seriously be damaged by putting down works in their neighbourhood. First there were the interests of the landowners, of the large proprietors, and the damage that would be done to their present water supply. Secondly, there were those who got their supply from some public authority. In explaining the Bill he would point out that certain works were to be put down, and certain wells were to be sunk in the red sandstone, or upper Bunter bed, which would inevitably affect all the wells in the neighbourhood. The Wolhampton Corporation had already a well there, which it was known had already had a very considerable effect upon the underground water in the district, and now they had been told that Wolverhampton was coming for further powers to put down new wells in the same locality. Therefore when pumping was going on they would find that all the water necessary for their supply would be taken from them, and they would have no remedy. In addition, there was the public supply for the borough of Wenlock, where at great cost a well had been put down, and it had been charged upon the rates. That well supplied a large number of parishes, and the effect of the new wells would be to empty and drain it, and consequently all the works that had been put down, for which £20,000 had been already borrowed, would become worthless. The House was now asked to sanction a new scheme which would ruin the Wenlock supply, and the ratepayers' money would be thrown away. The law on the subject might be explained as follows: If A were to dig a well to get water, and B were to dig beside it, and B's well drained A's well, then A would have no remedy at law. The only remedy of A would be for him to dig deeper than B's well. But who was going to enter into competition with the Wolverhampton Corporation? The consequence was that in law there was no remedy whatever. The whole question was whether in allowing this Bill to go forward great damage should be done and no compensation received. He maintained that there was no remedy whatever, except to come to the House and ask them not to give a Second Reading to the Bill. The Wolverhampton Corporation were proposing to dig a well at Stapleford, which would drain the Wenlock well at Harrington, and if the Bill were passed all the money expended for the public supply of Wenlock would become useless, the taxpayers would be saddled with a heavy burden, and an injustice would be done. The two hon. Members for Wolverhampton, who were present, no doubt knew the locality, and he would point out to them that the cost of £20,000 arose from the fact that the water on one side had to be taken down the bed of the river up on the other side, and therefore the cost to a small and poor community like that would be considerable. For years the supply to the parishes mentioned had been deficient, and the difficulty so great that the Corporation of Wenlock now came forward to obtain the protection of the House for their works. To sum up his case, he would observe that Wolverhampton ought to go to Birmingham for their water supply. Having got their remedy and supply there was no reason for their doing an injury to Shropshire. Under this Bill, by Sections 13 and 15, they had very large roving powers, which, if exercised, would practically amount to a roving commission to go all over the place and take anything which might be chosen. In conclusion, he asked the House to throw out the Bill on the Second Reading, and he moved that it be read a second time that day six months.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day six months.'"—(*Mr. Alexander Hargreaves Brown.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

*MR. STANLEY LEIGHTON (Shropshire, Oswestry) said that a Wolverhampton alderman had declared that the works going on now represented "a robbery of people without any compensation." The Bill proposed to treble the works. It had also been said that the water supply was insufficient for the growing needs of Wolverhampton, but the fact was that Parliament had already supplied the town with an inexhaustible store from the Birmingham reservoirs. Yet, before they had found out whether that would fail (and it never could fail), they came to Parliament with a new Bill, not to supply Wolverhampton with water, but to put profits in the pockets of the Wolverhampton ratepayers by taking other people's water. The chairman of the Water Committee had said that for the last thirty years they had made a fairly good profit out of the waterworks in Shropshire—waterworks which had caused ruin to all the surrounding neighbourhood, had dried up all the wells, turned the grass meadows into arid fields with great fissures in them, compelled the unfortunate villagers to go two or three miles for a can of water, and put the farmers at their wits' end for water. In the meantime those waterworks, which had scattered ruin over all the neighbourhood, had been putting profit into the pockets of the Wolverhampton ratepayers—"a fairly good profit." Therefore, this was not a Bill to supply a large population which was starved of water, but was a Bill to enable the ratepayers of Wolverhampton to make a profit out of the water, the taking away of which meant ruin to the people of Shropshire. He believed the House had never, in any of the water Bills brought before it, allowed the taking of anything but surplus water from any district, and had always left to the people enough to satisfy their wants. The great waterworks of the north, the great waterworks in Wales, had always been required to leave a sufficiency for those who lived in the neighbourhood. But this Bill proposed not to take the surplus or the surface water, but to go down 900 feet into the sandstone and abstract all the water-storage which supplied the district, and upon which the very existence of the district depended. Through the Upper Bunden bed of sandstone, he explained, the rain percolated quickly, and formed at 900 or 1,000 feet below a great storage of water, which came up again in springs and supplied the whole neighbourhood. If a pump were to be put into that storage, after a time the whole supply could be taken away. That had been proved by the well, 900 feet deep, which Wolverhampton had already put down. The pumping well provided 4,500,000 gallons per day sixteen years ago; it only now provided two and a half millions. If this Bill were passed it would mean that acres and acres of land in Shropshire would be converted into a desert. The whole county came forward as one man and protested against the Bill, and surely the 230,000 who formed the population had as good a title to consideration as the 170,000 inhabitants of Wolverhampton. Shropshire was fighting a principle which was of importance to every county council throughout the country, and Shropshire appealed to the representatives of counties to maintain the principle which had always been upheld by that House—that one county should not be deprived of a necessity of life which it possessed, in order to give it to another county. The Bill proposed that the Wolverhampton Corporation should be a new sanitary authority placed in Shropshire, a sanitary authority without representation, and in which not a single inhabitant of Shropshire would have a voice. Under that Bill the Corporation would have at its own option to supply water or not, for Section 5 said—

> "If at any time after the expiration of five years from the passing of this Act the Corporation are not furnishing or prepared on demand to furnish a sufficient supply of water in accordance with the provisions of this Act in any parish by this Act added to their limits for the supply of water, the local authority for the district comprising such parish may provide a supply in the whole or any part of such parish in accordance with the provisions of the Public Health Acts, or any company, body, or person may apply for an Act of Parliament or Provisional Order for the purpose of supplying water in any part of such parish not sufficiently supplied by the Corporation as if in either case this Act had not passed,"

and the Corporation had ten years option. If at the end of five years they were not supplying sufficient water, then the local authorities might provide it for themselves. But then the Corporation would already have taken all the water, and the local authority would be compelled to go elsewhere to find some at unreasonable cost. In other words, with a kind of cynicism seldom found in Acts of Parliament they said: "Go elsewhere; you must find your water elsewhere; we have taken it from you, and we decline to give you compensation." The Bill introduced new principles which were contrary to public policy, and contrary to the principles already applied by Parliament in private and general Acts. He appealed to the House not to introduce new forms and principles of legislation under the guise of private Bills.

*SIR HENRY FOWLER (Wolverhampton, E.) said he felt overwhelmed by the description of the magnitude of the crimes of Wolverhampton which they had just heard. He could only tell the House a plain and simple story, without attempting at all to reply to the rhetoric and, if he might so call it, the imagination of the hon. Gentleman who had just addressed the House. The object of the Bill was to increase the supply of water available for the large manufacturing population of Wolverhampton and its neighbourhood. The history of the supply of water to Wolverhampton he could put in a nutshell. All acquainted with Wolverhampton knew that it was a difficult place to supply with water, on account of the height above the sea level, and the water supply had always been a problem of considerable difficulty. The House, after the indignation which had been expressed from Shropshire at the invasion of Salopian territory, would be surprised to learn that about fifty years ago some enterprising public-spirited landowners of Shropshire proposed to construct works there to supply Wolverhampton with water. That was the inception of the present scheme, and they got their supply from a Shropshire brook. That supply, however, was insufficient and unsatisfactory, it being subjected to a great deal of turbid matter coming down, making it inferior in quality and deficient in quantity. After the Wolverhampton Corporation had bought the waterworks, some thirty-five years ago, and taken the matter into their own hands, they sunk a well into the red sandstone. That operation was a success, and had supplied Wolverhampton with a large quantity of water during the last quarter of a century. The fullest and amplest consideration had previously been paid to all the riparian proprietors down the whole course of the brook where it joined the Severn, so that no complaint was ever made against the Corporation of Wolverhampton on that score—against the diversion of the water. It was bought and paid for, and he thought no legal proceedings had ever been taken against them in regard to the taking of the water. The population of Wolverhampton now supplied was about 154,000. The water supply was already taken by 137,000 of that population; there were still 15,000 within the limits unsupplied, and there were also large manufactories; and whether through their own fault or through their misfortune, the Corporation were now bound to complete the supply. He would tell the House a few facts, and they would see where the pressure arose. The average supply of water during 1900 was 2,977,000 gallons per day, and on many occasions last year four million gallons were required, one day there being 4,138,000 consumed. The present quantity of water on which the town could depend was practically only the three million gallons to which he referred. The demand was daily increasing, and the very competent advisers of the Corporation of Wolverhampton said that they must supply a demand equal to twenty-five gallons per head, or 4,000,000 gallons per day, subject to a considerable increase. The present scheme was intended to meet that want, and the House would be very surprised to hear what a very small scheme that was. It really interfered only with a rural district containing a population of about 13,000 people, and the Wolverhampton Corporation were quite willing to recognise their obligation to the people in the locality, whose water it might be said they took. He ventured to say that if the Bill were allowed to go upstairs it would be seen that the Corporation would be compulsorily obliged to supply the whole of the inhabitants of the district, extending the limits to something like ten additional parishes. So that if there were any claims in consequence of the interference with wells, the Corporation would be ready and in a position to supply them with water. He would not dispute that there were local cases of hardship, where certain other wells might be interfered with in consequence of the sinking of new wells to great depths, and compensation ought to be given; but the idea of trying this case in the House of Commons by speeches on the one side and on the other, with no particle of reliable evidence, would be a travesty of the judicial functions of the House. A Committee ought to have the case to deal with, and no objection would be raised to the *locus standi* of anybody who considered himself aggrieved. The hon. Member for the Oswestry Division had said that there had been a great infliction of pains and penalties, which had done his constituency much injury, but he had been told that their scheme had not yet come into action at all; they had not pumped a drop of water, and if the people of Much Wenlock were prepared to sell what they had already spent, in reference to sinking that well, then Wolverhampton were prepared to buy it, and to supply Much Wenlock with water. Surely that, again, was a case for a Committee. He frankly admitted that the most serious part of the case was that which had been referred to by the hon. Member for the Wellington Division. Wolverhampton Corporation, no doubt, had the power to take the water from Birmingham, but it had to be taken upon terms, and they had been advised that a certain proportion of the original capital cost of the Birmingham scheme would have to be paid. Then again there was the difference of levels to be considered, they having been informed that there was no point on the Birmingham route where the water could be taken by gravitation, and that it would have to be pumped, and that meant a great expenditure.

*MR. ALEXANDER BROWN said the cost of the pumping was included in the statement.

*SIR HENRY FOWLER said he appreciated that point, but the ground on which the proposed scheme was recommended to the people of Wolverhampton, apart from the consideration of time, was that it would be a much more economical scheme than the supply from Birmingham. That, again, was a question for a Committee. As to the question of time, the Birmingham scheme was to be finished within ten years. He did not know if any hon. Member would say that it could be done within the remaining two years, but he was informed that a considerable time must elapse; and when the scheme was completed twelve months notice would have to be given, and a proper aqueduct would have to be constructed from the point of junction into the town of Wolverhampton. Those were difficulties which had beset the Water Committee of that Corporation. This was no scheme promoted for the benefit of some interested individual, but was an undertaking promoted by a public company in the discharge of their public duty to supply their town with water, and they, acting under the best engineering advice, had come to the conclusion that this was not only the cheapest but the most effective and most expeditious means by which they could discharge their duty. As to the five years to which his hon. friend had alluded, that simply related to the fact that somebody else must do the work if the Corporation did not; but from the moment they put down a supply of water from the two wells which they proposed to sink, they would be obliged to supply water to that particular locality. This was eminently a case for a judicial investigation by a Committee upstairs. He was one of those who very firmly believed in the impartiality of a House of Commons Committee, and he was quite sure the people of Wolverhampton would readily accept the decision of such a Committee after hearing evidence and cross-examination, and after having had the advantage of the learned representatives on all sides. No obstacle would be given to any man giving evidence; and they did not desire to shelter themselves behind any technicalities. They had a simple duty to discharge to the public, and in endeavouring to do so they asked the House as a matter of fairness not to judge the case against them without a hearing, but to send the Bill upstairs, where it would be fully and impartially considered and satisfactorily dealt with.

*COLONEL KENYON-SLANEY (Shropshire, Newport) said he cordially acknowledged the tone and temper in which the right hon. Gentleman (Sir H. Fowler) had addressed himself to the question, and he only wished that that had been the temper which had characterised the negotiations and various dealings with the matter on the part of the Corporation of Wolverhampton. If it had been, then the state of things might have been very different; but there seemed to him to have been some evil influences which prevented the question being considered in the way in which such controversies ought to be approached. He felt bound to tell the right hon. Gentleman, and he appreciated his position in the House as much as anyone, and he had had the pleasure of often supporting him in his public acts; but on this occasion he really must challenge his consistency. He recollected when the right hon. Gentleman was introducing the Parish Councils Bill, in which he gave the right hon. Gentleman support, he used these words—

> "The parish council will have the power of utilising any supply of water within the parish. There are a great many parishes which cannot bear the cost of waterworks, but which have an adequate supply of water if there were anybody to look after it, keep it pure, and see that it was distributed. There would, therefore, be great advantage in giving a parish council power to utilise a supply of water within the parish. I may say, in passing, that it is, of course, the absolute statutory duty of the district council, and we hope to make it more binding upon them, to see to the supply of water of every parish within their a rea."

Now, the right hon. Gentleman was in this position: every single parish council concerned in that particular area objected to the action which the right hon. Gentleman sought to force upon it. Every single district council objected most absolutely to the attempt of the right hon. Gentleman to take away from them the very power which he conferred by that Act, and on which he laid that stress. And not only that. Every single person exercising any public office whatever throughout the whole county united in most absolute objection to forcible means of taking away from them that which years ago the right hon. Gentleman took great credit for conferring upon them. Therefore he begged leave in the first instance to impugn the right hon. Gentleman's consistency and the consistency of any of those who, having once upheld the extension of powers to rural districts, now, at a moment which seemed to them advisable, took away those powers and placed the authorities in the maw of some great corporation merely because they happened to be connected with it.

*SIR HENRY FOWLER asked to be allowed to explain. The Bill contained a clause which compelled the Corporation to sell the plant and works in any district to the local authority whenever they chose.

*COLONEL KENYON-SLANEY asked how could those small local authorities by any accident be able to deal with questions of purchase and sale? The right hon. Gentleman might just as well tell him that he could go and buy out one of the great concerns of Wolverhampton to-morrow. The thing was an absurdity and a farce, and was well known to be such. He now knew that it was his duty to try and convince the House that it should in justice and equity take a course which was allowed to be rather unusual. In order that that might be done he wanted to indulge, like his hon. friend, in a short historical retrospect. His interests were to some extent personal. At all events his experience enabled him to lay before the House information which he could assure hon. Members was first-hand, and to the accuracy of every detail of which he publicly pledged himself. Firstly, people were apt to talk as if this was a Bill affecting landowners. In this case he asked them to remember that the landowners represented all the rural population living on the land. It was not a selfish vested interest on the part of the landowners, because, although they happened to be in the forefront of the battle by virtue of their interest in the land, it was a matter in which the landowners really represented everybody living on the land. There were several points to which he desired to ask the attention of the House. In the first place he could not help being rather amused at the right hon. Gentleman's description of the public-spirited landowners of Shropshire who came forward with a desire to supply Wolverhampton with water. The right hon Gentleman, whose recollection was as good as his, smiled. In its inception this was a mere job for the purpose of enabling a certain landowner to sell his land at a high price, as he thought, It never was carried out, and as far as that went the public-spirited landowner was utterly sold. Passing to another question, the right hon. Gentleman had taken credit to himself and his fair-dealing Corporation for having given great consideration to the riparian owners. If consideration were given to the riparian owners, he assumed that it was long before the Corporation came into possession of those works, and that it was given by the company which preceded the Corporation, from whom the Corporation took the property. He was a riparian owner himself for some considerable distance; and he had never been able to trace the passage of a single sixpence on that account. It did not appear on any estate account with which he was acquainted—certainly not in his own; neither were there any records such as were usually kept in estate offices of anything of the sort having passed. The only case he knew of was where a sum of £700 was paid when the site at Cosford was compulsorily purchased by the company which preceded the Corporation. As he had promised, he must go more carefully into an historical retrospect. This was a consideration which the House would bear in mind in coming to a fair conclusion. The position of the Corporation was a position of having succeeded a company. That company in 1855 secured a Bill in Parliament, and on the strength of the power given to it by Parliament it proceeded to buy the site at Cosford. It was a matter of fact, which would not be disputed, that there was not a single reference made in that Act to any powers to sink any wells whatever. That Act conferred, and was meant to confer, solely power to deal with overground water. There was no allusion whatever to well sinking in that Act of 1855; neither was there, he believed, at that time the slightest intention to sink wells; nor was there, according to the geological knowledge of that time, any encouragement for people to make the attempt. Anyhow, there was no such power there. The consequence was that Parliament, when they granted the present powers, did not safeguard the district in the matter of sinking wells. Had there been any mention of the possibility of wells being sunk, it was obvious that Parliament would have safeguarded the interests of the surrounding districts; but inasmuch as there was no reference made to any such thing, there were no safeguarding clauses, and the result was that they had been handed over, tied and bound, to the tender mercies of the Corporation, which had shown no mercy whatever, and had never made any attempt to show mercy to those whom it had victimised. He would ask the House to consider, not of course as affecting the Corporation, but the position, whether it did not almost amount to a fraud on Parliament that powers which Parliament gave for certain purposes should be used for other purposes, and that thereby Parliament should be deprived of the right to give that protection which otherwise it certainly would have given. In consequence of that action of 1855 great losses immediately began to be incurred in the neighbourhood. The water sank in the brook; the supply for cattle was affected; water for motive power was done away with, and it could not be used for the purpose of safeguarding mansions or farms from fire. In 1867 the Corporation bought out the company, and then became, under the same title and with the same limitations as their predecessors, the possessors of Cosford Works. The result was that as they pumped more water more damage accrued. Those immediately before them suffered, and more severely and heavily. Time after time they were asked whether they would consider the question of any reasonable compensation, and all consideration of that question was refused. In 1880, he thought, the Corporation sank this deep well of 918 feet. The right hon. Gentleman must recollect that no public notice was given of that. None of them had any reason to know that this operation was being carried on, and they had not a chance, therefore, of opposing it, even if they had had the power. Of course, the House would appreciate that the sinking of a well did not lead to any immediate change in the neighbourhood. The results were gradual, and gradually and surely the results of the well sinking became apparent. He owned a property of some 3,000 acres immediately above the works at Cosford, in which the effects became very gradually but certainly apparent. His wells began to sink and he spent considerable sums in deepening them. They held for a short time and then gave out. They constantly failed. In 1889 he took the advice of an expert civil engineer, who compared the position with what had been in 1884, and he found that the water level between those years had been lowered by the action of the Cosford pumping by twenty-eight inches; that was to say, over five and a half inches in the year. Consequently this was the position—that for a mansion, several farms, many cottages, and for all the ordinary transactions of agricultural life, he had not one spoonful of water left, and he had no access to any other source whatever. Water had to be carried from one place to another in order to get on at all, and he had sometimes to rely on the rainfall. In 1889, when this desperate state of things had to be faced, he went to the Wolverhampton Corporation and saw the chairman of committee and the chief engineer of works. He laid before them the position in which he was placed, and they replied: "We have taken all your water; if you find any more water, Colonel Slaney, we will take that too, and we will not give you any compensation." The House could imagine, therefore, how bitterly he contrasted that reply with the language of the right hon. Gentleman when he talked of the readiness and willingness of the Corporation, and admitted that compensation ought to be given. All these were incontrovertible and incontestable facts. The two gentlemen he saw conversed with him, and suggested it would be possible under certain circumstances to supply him with water. He asked what the conditions would be, and was informed that for a limited time, and only at a slightly preferential price, they would give him water on condition that he paid the whole cost price of laying down every main and pipe required in the system. The first calculation put before him was £800 for doing a little portion only of what was required. What was he to do? Well, it turned out that he became, within a year, possessed of another little property abutting on his former property some two miles from the works already erected, where he put up pumping works for resupplying his farms, his people, and himself. The cost of doing that had been over £3,000 in absolute cash, and would be practically over £5,000 in direct and indirect value. He need hardly say that he did not raise his rent in order to meet any part of that cost. It was an elementary right that every tenant should receive water from his landlord, at any rate he thought every tenant should receive water from his landlord; at all events, in his case every tenant had received it, and now he was enjoying that supply. But what position, he asked, would he and his people have been in if he had not had the means and good fortune to get that supply? The countryside would have been derelict. Agricultural operations could not be carried on without water, and it was idle to contend that this was a small case, and that he was asking for anything excessive. This was a serious example, and the House ought to take warning and apply the only remedy which was in its power. He had not calculated the probable future expenditure on renewals, etc., and no doubt a great part of the outlay would have to be renewed. As to what was now happening, he would say that some of the most valuable land was that along the edges of the brook referred to, and was formerly celebrated as hay-growing land. Now acres of it were absolutely broken into fissures and cracks, so large that it was not safe to turn stock upon it, and the value of the fields had almost entirely gone for agricultural purposes; in fact, in those districts where there was thirsty, light, dry soil the damage was spreading year by year, and the land becoming valueless. He thought the House would appreciate his putting a personal case before them, showing the results likely to follow the passing of this Bill. One of the first results of developing the existing well would in all geological probability be to deprive him of his source of water, provided at a cost of £5,000, on which all his district now absolutely depended, and as far as the Bill went there was not one atom of an idea of any compensation being provided for that. Let the House consider what it meant. Wolverhampton already had deprived him to the extent that he had put before the House, and they now came and said: "Give us further powers, of which one of the first results will be to take away from you that which you have provided for your people, and to replace you in the condition in which you were before you spent that money." He had intended to make a very strong appeal to the House on the subject of *locus standi*. Up to that afternoon no indication whatever had been given by Wolverhampton that they would not oppose, and oppose bitterly, his *locus standi*, and that of others in the same position as himself in this matter. He believed that now a concession on that point had been made, and he would not labour the point at large; but the House would appreciate that it would at all events have been handsomer fighting if the Corporation in the first instance had let them know they would give them that *locus standi*, so that they would have the elementary right of making their case known to the Committee to which the Bill might be referred. But there was nothing of that sort, and only that afternoon had he been informed that the opposition to his *locus standi* was to cease. As to some interesting facts in connection with this matter, he might say that not longer ago than 1900 the President of the Institution of Civil Engineers, Mr. Mansergh, delivered an address in which he made it clear enough for the understanding of laymen, or lawyers, that the law as it stood was absolutely a gross iniquity and injustice; and one of the objects he had in dealing with this case so fully, and in laying it so thoroughly before the House, was that he hoped the case might go some step towards sweeping away a law which was absolutely obsolete and untenable. He might say that he was not the only person concerned in the Bill, and was not going to be the only sufferer. He had only used his own case as an illustration of what had happened, and therefore of what might presumably happen again. But, besides himself, there were all his neighbours who stood to suffer in the same way, fearing the same results from the same treatment, and he appealed to the House as heartily on their behalf as he did on his own. There was not one single local body the whole way throughout this area who did not join heart and soul in this opposition to what they considered would be a crushing misfortune brought upon them. Every public body—county councils, district councils, parish and urban district councils, and sanitary authorities—were all united in universal complaint that this measure would be ruin and destruction to them. With regard to the position of Much Wenlock, which had been laid before the House by his hon. friend, it had raised £20,000 of public money with the sanction of the Local Government Board for the purpose of a water supply; and when the right hon. Gentleman said, "Oh, we will supply you with water," on his own showing he would not have water enough from those sources to supply Wolverhampton, or one half of it; he was bound to look after his own borough first; his own ratepayers would want all the water available from those wells, and he (the hon. Gentleman) and his people would have to take second place. Underground reservoirs were not continuously maintained at a certain level. When one was tapped no doubt they could draw a sufficient supply for a long time, but afterwards it would be found that one would be living on the capital of his water supply and not on the income. Therefore, in the case of Cosford, the well 918 feet deep had already diminished its supply by one half, at any rate by many thousands, or even by millions, of gallons, and that in only a comparatively short time. Therefore it was clear and evident that such a kind of supply was the most precarious and unsatisfactory source to reckon upon. Indeed, if he recollected rightly the evidence given in the case of the Birmingham Water Bill, many of the experts laid great stress on the fact that it ought to be the upland sources of water which the large towns should place reliance upon, rather than the underground well systems. Then he would pass to another instance, which he thought the House would appreciate. In Shifnal, where he resided, and which he therefore represented, there was this curious consideration in regard to the Bill. Shifnal had already, by the sanction of the Local Government Board, spent £10,000 in carrying out a sewerage system, which discharged into a brook. This Bill took the power to the Wolverhampton Corporation to inspect, interfere with, pull down, and to deal in any way with any works which affected the purity of the supply within the area over which they wished to be made free masters. If, therefore, this Bill passed, and those powers were exercised, they must spend another £10,000 in order to pump up to a high level that which they were now able to get rid of practically by gravitation. Again, Shifnal had an arrangement under which it would get its supply at a considerably less price than

Wolverhampton would give it them, for if Wolverhampton got the powers; but Wolverhampton would want every drop it proposed to take from them, and the chance of the rural parish getting anything at all was nebulous and hazy. Their taking those powers would result in the piling of this additional agony upon a small rural population. Now, what did the Local Government Board say to that? Surely it was an absolute stultification of the trust and confidence that they should have in them if they were to allow a Bill of this kind to pass, by which the whole of the money borrowed and spent was to be squandered. What confidence could there be, and how could small local bodies be encouraged to do work, and how could advantage be taken of these borrowing powers in order to supply the necessities of the localities if this were to be the position in which they were to find themselves? He had tried to put before the House sound arguments, and when the right hon. Gentleman talked of a sparse population of 13,000 the House must be asked to consider what the position of the respective policies was. At present there was a supply which it was not possible to get from any other source, and if it were taken away he did not know where the people would turn for that which, after many years seeking, they thought they had at last found. It being the fashion to take the strongest interest in the counties and localities, why should not he, as one of the Members, ask why a large Staffordshire town, ten or twelve miles over the borders of Shropshire, on another watershed, come in and take from the county of Salop that which that county wanted for itself? There was not in that any elementary justice or elementary right. The soil there was thirsty, and they themselves wanted all the water they could get; in fact, the two great needs at present were pure water and pure beer. He desired to warn the House against the possible use that might be made of another power that lurked mysteriously in the clauses of the Bill. There lurked there a power to take up to fifty acres of land anywhere where the Corporation of Wolverhampton could arrange to take it. Somebody had sunk a well producing sufficient water for their purposes. The Corporation became aware of it; under the operation of the clause, if they could only get, by paying a high price, some portion of the land, they would dump down one of those wells, and away would go the whole of that source of supply. In fact, they would dot the surface of the country over with those dumped-down works, every one of them stripping and denuding some rural locality of the water they required. No one acknowledged more than he that in the face of the needs of a large population the rights of the minority must give way. He accepted that, and was prepared to act up to that acceptance, but he maintained that the case was not established. He would say to the promoters of the Bill, "You have not established your needs; you have not established the fact that you cannot supply your needs better and more equitably, and for a longer time, from other sources." He would like to reply to the argument that the whole of the matter could be thrashed out before a Committee upstairs. This suggestion, seriously put, would be appreciated: "Go and spend more of your money upstairs in costs." There was no reasoning in that. Here was a large Corporation commanding the rates, and they were told that they were to go and fight them before a Committee. To some members of Corporations like that it was an amusement, to some an interest—aye, and a matter of professional advancement—to be considered in fighting such matters. But what was the position of poor localities or of private individuals? The burden was so heavy as almost to deprive them of the ability to contest the cases at all. If they were now forced to go to a Committee they would fight, but he could not hide the fact that in addition to the enormous impost which had already been placed upon him by the Wolverhampton Corporation, he should be mulcted in further sums in order to obtain justice upstairs. He hoped he had shown that a principle was involved in this Bill, something to induce the House to recognise that there was a case of common justice and equity against the Bill, and to induce the House to throw out the Bill on the Second Reading; and further, he hoped he had shown some good cause why the law officers of the Crown should no longer delay in bringing in an Act which would amend the monstrous, intolerable laws which now governed the subject of water supply.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.): I should like, with the permission of the House, to say a few words upon this question. I do not propose to follow my hon. friend, who has just made a most eloquent and powerful speech. I am quite sure that he will have the sympathy of the whole House in the personal grievances he has put forward with so much clearness and moderation, and the thanks of the House for having indicated to them the general danger which is involved in Bills of this kind, against which the House undoubtedly has to guard. I have a distinct interest in this measure, inasmuch as I represent the Corporation of Birmingham, and the taxpayers of Birmingham, who are responsible for the great works which that Corporation are carrying out. It is rather with a view of laying before the House one or two general considerations than with any expectations that I shall be able to follow my hon. friend in all the details which he has brought before the House that I now rise. Sir, I suppose the material interests of the Corporation of Birmingham are against this Bill. When we undertook our great scheme to bring water from Wales, at an enormous expenditure, we most readily accepted the responsibility of supplying all the places on the route who desired to take a supply, and I will say we did so most readily, in the first place, because it was a matter of justice to all those localities; in the second place, we thought that to some extent they would share with us in the responsibility of the undertaking. I think the right hon. Gentleman the Member for East Wolverhampton was mistaken in reference to the terms of the arrangement ultimately made. I do not think the Corporation of Wolverhampton, had they decided to take their water from the supply of the Corporation of Birmingham, would have had to find any part of the original cost. The capital cost was provided by the Corporation of Birmingham. No doubt, if the cost is greatly increased, the cost of the water would be increased, and the price of the supply to any corporation on the route would be its cost price. But the Corporation of Birmingham was to make no profit in the matter; we were to supply at cost price any locality on the route. Therefore, I say that I think that the Corporation of Birmingham would be somewhat disappointed if the Corporation of Wolverhampton does not take advantage of this opportunity. But with regard to that point, I lay down my first general principle—when you give local authority to a district you ought practically to cease to interfere with its administration. The line which I am now laying down is that so far as the affairs of the locality to which you have given local government are concerned, they should be employed as loyally as possible—that, in fact, you have no right to interfere unless some other interest is concerned. The moment an outside interest is concerned it may be this House is called upon to protect that outside interest. But so far as the policy of Wolverhampton is concerned in refusing to take its water from Birmingham, and in desiring to enter into a large and possibly speculative scheme of its own, we in Birmingham offer no observations. That is the business of the Corporation of Wolverhampton, and if it is their desire as a great corporation to enter upon the scheme, whatever we may think of it, we do not oppose. On the contrary, on the general principle we are prepared to support them. But, of course, there comes into the case the element of the position of outside authorities, and it is in regard to these authorities my hon. friend has just made his powerful appeal to the House. There again I ask the House to take into account certain general considerations. My hon. friend behind me says truly, I have no doubt, that every small local authority on the route of this water supply is opposed to the Bill.

*COLONEL KENYON-SLANEY: Every corporation and every county council.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: But I hope my hon. friend will agree with me when I say that that ought not to be conclusive against them, because if you once admit that these local authorities are to have this power, and that their veto is to be accepted, you will find yourselves in the most serious difficulty with regard to other great towns whose supply of water depends absolutely upon power being given them to go to a distance. Where there is a vast population, where a great deal of the energy and wealth of the country is concentrated, and upon which the prosperity of the country depends, you must give them the means of living and having the water which is absolutely necessary to them. If they cannot get their water within their own limited space they must go outside, and therefore I conclude with the principle to which I hope I shall have the unanimous assent of the House, that the opposition of these local authorities is not in itself conclusive. But, Sir, on the other hand, nothing can be more unjust than such action as my hon. friend attributes to the Corporation of Wolverhampton in his own case, and I say that anyone in such a position would say that he had been subjected to an intolerable injustice. The action of the Corporation cannot be defended, and it is the duty of this House to prevent such action. What is the principle which I lay down in regard to water supply which must come from a distance? It is that the localities which are affected should not be injured, that all that the central bodies should be allowed to take is the surplus and nothing more, and that it shall be bound to supply to the localities first all the water in which they stand in need, to which they have a legitimate claim, and at a reasonable price——

*COLONEL KENYON-SLANEY: First.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: First; and only the surplus should be the property of the authority seeking this power. That I believe to be a perfectly fair principle to lay down. My hon. friend says this is a matter for scientific experts and not for this House. He says that if that principle is adopted there will be no surplus water. That is one of those questions which ought to go to a Committee. My feeling is that having regard to the principles, if I may venture so to call them, which I have laid down, this Bill should be sent, as all such Bills are, to a Committee, with, however, the expression of the opinion of the House that in no case should these districts be damnified by subsequent proceedings; that full protection should be put in the Bill for the future supply of water to the various localities concerned. I agree with my hon. friend that, in the Bill as it stands, there is no sufficient protection. I cannot doubt that such protection will be inserted by the Committee on the representation of the authorities concerned, and though I regret that they should be put to any expense, yet, as their interests are identical, I think they might combine in their opposition before the Committee, so that the cost to each individual or each authority may be very small.

MR. STANLEY LEIGHTON: Will the right hon. Member accept an Instruction to that effect?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I am not in charge of the Bill, but if my hon. friend asked me if I would support an Instruction to that effect, most certainly I would, because it seems to me to be absolutely fair that outsiders should have a right to that protection.

*MR. ALEXANDER BROWN: I suppose the right hon. Gentleman would include all public bodies as well as private bodies in that?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: Clearly, *à fortiori.* If I say that a single individual, because he is a landowner, should not be unjustly treated, *à fortiori* I am prepared to do justice to those who represent the community or the district in which they reside. Subject to that understanding, I hope the Bill will be sent to a Committee. I hope the Committee will examine into the question, and if there be this surplus water, as is contended, I think we ought not to allow the prejudice or the suspicion, or even the irritation caused by past conduct on the part of the local authorities to interfere in what, after all, is an absolute necessity to the prosperity of a very large and important town.

SIR ALFRED HICKMAN (Wolverhampton, W.) said that what this Bill really proposed to do was to provide an absolute necessity for 154,000 people. The Wolverhampton Corporation proposed to sink wells at a very great depth; in that way they got rid of the possibility of the interference with existing rights upon which such stress had been laid. As to the necessity for an improved water supply there could not be any doubt. The present supply from wells amounted to 3,000,000 gallons a day, but on many occasions the consumption had amounted to as much as 4,000,000 gallons a day. The Cosford brook ran through a very cultivated district, and cattle were pastured on its banks; also, many cottages drained into the brook. In time of drought there was very little water, and in time of flood the water was very much too muddy to be used, so that the water was insufficient at the present time even with the brook, and what it was proposed to do in the future was not to take any water at all from the brook. The hon. and gallant Gentleman had said that under the proposals of this Bill Wolverhampton would not have enough water, but the opinion of the most eminent experts was that the quantity which would be obtained would allow for about 6½ million gallons per day; that was fifty per cent. more than the present requirements. That would be sufficient not only for the town of Wolverhampton, but for the whole of the area which was supposed to be affected. It was said that water was a necessity of life and that it was a great grievance to take away their water from these small districts. That was true; but what Wolverhampton proposed was not to take away, but to give them water. He himself was in the position of a landowner on a small scale in the very area that had been mentioned. He had an ample supply of beautiful water, but he found it better and cheaper to take the Wolverhampton water and pay the Corporation for it rather than go to the expense and trouble of pumping his own water. Nobody would be in a worse position under this Bill; all the persons affected would have an ample supply of water at such a rate as should be considered by the Committee to be a fair rate. It was said that there was no need for this Bill, because Wolverhampton had powers to take the supply from Birmingham. That was quite true, but the Birmingham works would not be finished for something like three years. Then the terms were that when they were finished Wolverhampton must give twelve months notice before they would be entitled to take the water; further, there would have to be an arbitration at the expiration of the notice to decide what the terms should be. What was to become of Wolverhampton in the meantime? Were 154,000 people to be on a short supply of water for three or four years? Surely that was a question at any rate for the Committee to consider. He quite sympathised with the hon. and gallant Gentleman in regard to the mischief he had suffered by his fishing, and so on, being interfered with, but surely these were all questions which could be threshed out in the Committee, and the House would not reject altogether a Bill which was of such enormous importance to a large number of people. The hon. and gallant Gentleman said that this was not so much a question of supplying people who were short of water, but that it was a commercial undertaking and intended to profit the Corporation of Wolverhampton. The hon. and gallant Gentleman could not have been acquainted with the facts, or he would never have made that statement. The truth was that last year the whole net available profit of the undertaking to the Corporation only amounted to about 2s. per house supplied. That was not a very extravagant profit. With regard to the opposition of the county councils and the rural district councils, he submitted that the expense of appearing before the Committee and giving evidence on the subject would not be very formidable when divided between the riparian owners and these numerous local bodies. With regard to the matter of compensation, that again was a detail which would be settled by the Committee. The Corporation would not offer any objection to paying fair compensation. He reminded the House that the Wolverhampton Corporation had given a distinct pledge not only to give a full and ample supply of water to every person whose supply was interfered with, but that they would give that supply on such terms as the Committee might consider reasonable and fair. In conclusion, he submitted that the House ought not to throw out the Bill on the Second Reading, but should, following the ordinary practice, allow it to go before a Committee upstairs.

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 154 ; Noes, 239. (Division List No. 59.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Aird, Sir John
Anstruther, H. T.
Arrol, Sir William
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith,Rt. Hon. HerbertHy.
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balfour,MajKR(Christchurch
Barlow, John Emmott
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Bell, Richard
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Broadhurst, Henry
Bullard, Sir Harry
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caine, William Sproston
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlain,Rt.Hn.J.(Birm.)
Chapman, Edward
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A.E.
Coddington, Sir William
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colville, John
Corbett,A.Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Craig, Robert Hunter
Crombie, John William
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies,M.Vaughan-(Cardigan
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dewar,T.R.(T'rH'mlets,S.Geo
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Dunn, Sir William
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Elibank, Master of
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Emmott, Alfred
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Flower, Ernest
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fuller, J. M. F.
Gladstone,RtHn.HerbertJohn
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gordon,Hn.J.E.(Elgin&Nairn
Gorst, Rt. Hn. Sir John Eldon
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Green,WalfordD.(Wednesb'ry
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hain, Edward
Hall, Edward Marshall
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. SirWilliam
Hardie,J.Keir(MerthyrTydvil
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hayne, Rt. Hn. Charles Seale-
Helder, Augustus
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hn. Charles H.
Holland, William Henry
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Horniman, Frederick John
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Jackson, Rt. Hon. Wm. Lawies
Jacoby, James Alfred
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Jones,DavidBrynm'r(Swansea
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennaway,Rt.Hon.SirJohnH.
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Kitson, Sir James
Langley, Batty
Leng, Sir John
Levy, Maurice
Lough, Thomas
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther,RtHnJW(CumPenr.
Lucas,Col.Francis (Lowestoft)
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M‘Kenna, Reginald
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Maple, Sir John Blundell
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mellor, Rt. Hon. John Wm.
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Middlemore,Jn. Throgmorton
Milward, Colonel Victor
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan,J.Lloyd(Carmarthen)
Morley, Charles (Breconshire)
Morton,ArthurH.A.(Deptford
Mount, William Arthur
Myers, William Henry
Newnes, Sir George
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Pease, Herb.Pike(Darlington)
Penn, John
Reed, Sir Edw. Jas. (Cardiff)
Rentoul, James Alexander
Ridley, Hn.M.W (Stalybridge
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Sadler, Col.SamuelAlexander
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
Seely, Charles Hilton(Lincoln)
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Sinclair,Capt.Jn.(Forfarshire)
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Smith,JamesParker(Lanarks.
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spear, John Ward
Spencer,RtHnC.R.(Northants
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Stroyan, John
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
Thomas, J. A. (Glam. Gower)
Thomson, F. W. (York, W.R.)
Tomkinson, James
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Walton,JohnLawson(Leeds,S.
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, ThomasCourtenayT.
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Wason,Eugene(Clackmannan)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whiteley,George(York,W.R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams,Rt.HnJPowell-(Bir.
Wilson,J.W.(Worcestersh.N.
Woodhouse,SirJT(Huddersf'd
Wortley,Rt.Hon.C.B.Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Henry Fowler and Sir Alfred Hickman.

NOES.

Abraham,William(Cork,N.E.)
Acland-Hood,Capt.SirAlex.F.
Allan, William (Gateshead)
Allen, Chas. P. (Glouc., Stroud
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Bagot,Capt.Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Baird,John George Alexander
Banbury, Frederick George
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Bartley, George C. T.
Bathurst,Hon. AllenBenjamin
Blake, Edward
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boland, John
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Boulnois, Edmund
Bowles,Capt. H. F.(Middlesex
Bowles,T.Gibson (King'sLynn
Brassey, Albert
Brigg, John
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Bull, William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W.(Derbysh.
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Charrington, Spencer
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cogan, Denis J.

Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cranborne, Viscount
Crean, Eugene
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Cullinan, J.
Delany, William
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dimsdale, Sir Joseph Cockfield
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Dorington, Sir John Edward
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, James H.
Edwards, Frank
Egerton, Hon. A de Tatton
Ellis, John Edward
Faber, George Denison
Fardell, Sir T. George
Farrell, James Patrick
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fenwick, Charles
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (Man'r
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fitzroy, Hon. Edward Algernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Flynn, James Christopher
Forster, Henry William
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
Gilhooly, James
Gordon, Maj Evans-(T'rH'ml'ts
Gore, Hon. F. S. Ormsby-
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Greene, Sir E. W. (B'y S Edm'nds
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
Grenfell, William Henry
Gretton, John
Gunter, Colonel
Hamilton, Marq. of (L'nd'derry
Hammond, John
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashf'd
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harris, F Leverton (Tynemouth
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayden, John Patrick
Healy, Timothy Michael
Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanl'y
Heath, James (Staffords. N. W.
Herman-Hodge, Robt. Trotter
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (Bristol, E.)
Hobhouse, Henry (Somerset, E.
Hope, J. F. (Shef'ld, Brightside
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West
Horner, Frederick William
Hoult, Joseph
Howard, Capt J (Kent, Faversh.
Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Joicey, Sir James
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Patrick James
Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (Denbigh
Kenyon, James (Lancs., Bury)
Kimber, Henry
Kinloch, Sir John George Smyth
Lambert, George
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Law, Andrew Bonar
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leighton, Stanley
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Lewis, John Herbert
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale
Lowther, Rt. Hon. James (Kent
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth
Lundon, W.
Macartney, Rt. Hn. W G Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Govern, T.
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (Edinburgh W
M'Killop, Jas. (Stirlingshire)
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Maxwell, Rt Hn Sir H E (Wigton
Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfriessh.
Milner, Rt. Hn. Sir Frederick G.
Milton, Viscount
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Montagu, Hn. J. Scott (Hants.)
Mooney, John J.
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morgan, Dav. J. (Walthamst'w
Morrell, George Herbert
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, J.
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.)
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipper'ry Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Palmer, Sir Charles M. (Durham
Percy, Earl
Pickard, Benjamin
Pilkington, Richard
Pirie, Duncan V.
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Power, Patrick Joseph
Pretyman, Ernest George
Price, Robert John
Priestley, Arthur
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Renshaw, Charles Bine
Roche, John
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Russell, T. W.
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, H C (Northmb. Tyneside
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Stanley, Edw. Jas. (Somerset)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stevenson, Francis S.
Stock, James Henry
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Sullivan, Donal
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, F. Freeman-(Hasti'gs)
Thornburn, Sir Walter
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tufnell, Col. Edward
Tully, Jasper
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir Wm. H.
Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E.
Welby, Lt.-Col A. C. E. (Taunt'n
Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Wills, Sir Frederick
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R)
Wilson John (Glasgow)
Wodehouse, Hn. Armine (Essex
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)

Tellers for the Noes—Mr. Alexander Hargreaves Brown and Colonel Kenyon-Slaney.

Words added.

Main Question, as amended, put and agreed to.

Second Reading put off for six months.

BLACKPOOL IMPROVEMENT BILL.
(BY ORDER.)

Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

MR. JEFFREYS (Hants, N.): I understand that the promoters are willing to introduce certain desirable Amendments, and under the circumstances I withdraw my objection to the Second Reading.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed.

GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY BILL.
(BY ORDER.)

Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

*MR. BELL (Derby) moved that the Bill be read a second time that day six months. He was, he stated, very anxious to say a few words on behalf of a large number of men directly concerned in the measure, being in the employ of the railway company. One of the chief objections entertained to the Bill had reference to the scheme of the promoters as contained in Clause 27, in which the company seek power to contribute towards certain provident funds, etc. Clause 27 reads—

> "If a society is or shall be hereafter constituted from amongst persons in the pay of the company for the purpose of providing by means of the subscriptions of the members, with the aid of donations or subscriptions from the company and others, for the relief or maintenance of members of such society during sickness not arising from injuries in respect of which such members are entitled to compensation from the company by statute or common law, or under the Great Eastern Accident Fund Scheme," etc.

From those words Members might assume that the company were actuated by some extraordinary feeling of philanthropy in putting forward this clause, and that they were simply moved by the interests of their employees. He proposed, however, to prove to the House that they were not actuated by either philanthropy or generosity. Their object was common to a great many railway companies in the present day. It was to attach their employees to them, and to deprive them of that to which they had a perfect right—namely, liberty of choice in regard to connection with provident institutions. There was in connection with the Great Eastern Company a provident society which had been in existence since 1851——

*MR. SPEAKER: I would point out to the hon. Member that this Bill is an omnibus Bill, and that only this one clause (27) has reference to the provident society to which the hon. Member objects. If he has no substantial objection to the Bill as a whole, I would suggest to him that his better course would be to reserve his observations until the House comes to the proposal on the Paper, "That it be an Instruction to the Committee to strike out Clause 27." I do not say the hon. Member is out of order in moving the rejection of the Bill; but if his objection is only to that clause, that, I would suggest, would be the proper and usual place to move it.

*MR. BELL said he had another reason for opposing. There was in connection with the Great Eastern Railway Company a provident society, which has been in existence since 1851. It was a compulsory society, and men employed in certain grades in the company's service were required, as a condition of employment, to become members of that society. Up to 1888 there were in the society three scales of payment, and the men had to contribute 8d. per week. It was found in the year 1884 that the society was insolvent, and arrangements were made whereby the members paid an additional 1d. per week. So it went on until 1898, when, on an actuarial valuation being made, it was shown that up to the end of 1894 the society had been insolvent to the extent of over £34,000. An effort had been made by those having the management of the society—namely, certain employees who paid the money into the funds—to make certain alterations, but, as a matter of fact, the employees could not under any circumstances alter or amend the rules, or make new ones, without the sanction and approval of the directors. Notwithstanding that, in 1899 and 1900 it was decided that the contribution should again be raised 1d. per week, the subscription having been raised in 1888 to 9d. The men who paid that amount received in return no more benefit than was, in many instances, received by men belonging to other societies outside the company's for a much smaller payment. One of the chief grievances in connection with this society was that the chairman and directors of the railway company were aggrieved because members of their society, who were compelled by the conditions of their employment to contract out of the Workmen's Compensation Act by joining an insurance society, should receive when they were sick from accident a certain amount from the insurance society as well as a certain amount from the benefit society. The Chairman of the Great Eastern Company felt so much aggrieved that he had endeavoured to obtain a clause forbidding employees who had met with injuries from receiving benefit from the provident society as well as from the insurance society. That was clearly a gross injustice to the men. It is tyrannous and unjust to dictate to men belonging to a society when and under what circumstances they should draw benefits. That formed a serious objection to the proposal of the clause. On the 15th June, 1900, the chairman of the company, Lord Claud J. Hamilton, sent a circular to the committee of the railway fund, in which he said—

> "The strongest proof of this is the fact that only since January last it has been necessary to withdraw £2,000 from the reserve funds, and further withdrawals will have to be made if the present benefits are to be continned."

That £2,000 was what the company pretended to pay. By some arrangement, in 1888, when they found that the society was insolvent, they came to terms with the committee of management and agreed that the company should contribute a subsidy of £2,500 a year towards the funds of the society. But that contribution had been in name only. They had not subscribed the sum annually, but it was there as a reserve fund, guaranteed by the company, to be drawn upon if necessary. From 1886 to 1900 something like £3,700 was all that been drawn from the reserve fund, and so long as the society had a penny in hand received from its members nothing came from the company. Lord Claud Hamilton went on to say in his circular—

> "Almost the whole of the staff are members of the Company's Accident Fund, and any member of the Provident Society incapacitated by injury arising in the course of his duties in the company's service receives allowances from the Provident Society as well as from the Accident Fund. This does not appear to me to be reasonable, and in other respects it is open to objection. I suggest, therefore, that the members of the Provident Society should agree to renounce any allowances from the society whilst they are receiving an allowance from the Accident Fund, except in cases where the Accident Fund allowance by effluxion of time has been reduced to half-pay, in which case the Provident Society should grant its half-pay allowance."

He concluded this circular by saying—

> "As regards the future, it is proposed to start a new society on a different basis, on the establishment of which the existing society will discontinue to accept new members."

Apparently the directors and chairman of the Great Eastern Company considered it unreasonable that men who might have been injured by accident in the company's employ should receive payment from the provident society as well as from the accident fund, the full amount of which would not be more than £1 a week. The directors were not successful in getting the men to accept this alteration in the provident society, so now they were trying to start a new fund, letting the old one die a natural death. The company said that they had already subscribed £35,499 towards superanuation, pensions, and to supplementary accident and other benefit funds of the company. Much of that money which they said they had subscribed was simply entered on paper and not actually subscribed to the funds of the society. A large proportion of that money went to pay for accidents for which otherwise the men would have been entitled to compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act.

The report of the Accident Fund established in July, 1898, in substitution for the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1896, stated that—

> "During the year the total number of claims was 3,635, including twenty-seven in regard to accidents that terminated fatally, six that

resulted in the loss of an eye, four in the loss of a leg, one in the loss of an arm, and one in the loss of sight."

He maintained that a very large proportion of the £35,499 which the chairman had referred to would have gone under the Compensation Act to pay the workmen in these 3,635 cases. These matters had been discussed from time to time by the men, and eventually they wrote to the chairman of the company on 3rd December a long letter, which contained the following words—

> "The committee, delegates, and members generally regret that it was decided to start a new society rather than enrol future servants of the company in this society on an equitable footing, but such a step having been taken they have no option but to accommodate themselves to the altered circumstances, and seek to enable the Provident Society to fulfil its mission to each and every one of its members."

That proved that it was not at the request of the men that these powers were now being sought by the company. The matter was discussed at the last meeting of the directors, and the chairman said—

> "In drawing attention to the Provident Fund the directors asked leave to subscribe to that fund another £500 a year. The fund was established in 1851, and was contributed to and managed by the men themselves, and the membership was now about 9,000."

So far as the men were concerned they could make no alteration or amendment in the rules of their society without the sanction of the directors. The company's subsidy was not paid into the fund, and there was at the present time £40,000 to the credit of the reserve—money which was not paid over by the company, but was a guarantee to meet contingencies should the men's contributions not be sufficient to meet the liabilities of the fund. Rather than that the subsidy of the company should be drawn on, the members had paid an extra penny a week. He wished, further, to draw attention to the effect of the clause referring to superannuation or pensions. The original rule was as follows—

> "31. That any free member, of not less than two years standing, who may by accident, infirmity, old age, loss of sight, or other cause be rendered incapable of earning his livelihood, shall be placed upon the pension list and entitled to receive a weekly pension as defined in the following table," etc.

It seemed to be another sore point with the chairman of the Great Eastern Company and the directors that men should be thus entitled to a pension, the maximum of which, on the higher scale, was 6s. 10d. per week, and the chairman had insisted upon the rule being so amended that it should be left wholly to the discretion of the directors to say whether or not a man who should become entitled to superannuation or pension should receive it. The clause as amended was as follows—

> "Rule 31. That any free resident member of not less than two years standing who has, on account of physical or mental incapacity, been discharged by the directors of the Great Eastern Company, or who has, on the like account, retired from the service of the company, with the approval of the said directors, shall be placed upon the pension list, and be entitled to receive a weekly pension, as defined in the following table," etc.

The objection to that was clear. The rule contained the words "with the approval of the directors." That meant that a man who might be in receipt of 25s. or 30s. a week, and who might have been in the service of the company for thirty-five or forty years, when he attained the age of sixty-five years and thought to himself, "I have done enough railway work and I will take my 6s. 10d. a week pension and retire," could not put his desire into execution without the consent of the directors. It would be in their power to say, "You shall not retire; if your present occupation is too hard for you, we will find you another office at less wages, but you have five or six years work in you yet." The men knew this, and it was at the desire of men on all parts of the Great Eastern system that he was opposing the Second Reading of the Bill unless this clause was withdrawn. Some members might think it generous on the part of the railway company to subscribe to a fund for the benefit of their employees, but it was really a condition of service that the men should join this, that, or the other fund. Nearly all the companies had two or three of these funds attached to them. One was voluntary and another was made compulsory, and in the compulsory one there was sometimes a clause which made it necessary to join the society which had not such a clause. This rule was evidently designed to assist in compelling men to contract out of the Workmen's Compensation Act by joining the Insurance Society.

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member appears to me to be discussing generally what should be the nature of funds of this kind, and to be citing from the regulations of other societies. That is clearly not in order on this Bill.

*MR. BELL: I am quoting to show the objections to these compulsory societies. I think I have given sufficient facts to prove that these societies are objectionable to the men employed in the railway service. At the outest of my remarks I said that many people would consider at first sight that the railway companies were actuated by a spirit of philanthropy. But I find that no such spirit prompts them. If it were otherwise—if they were really philanthropic and kindly disposed towards their servants—I ask why should they forbid their employees to take part in political or civic duties? This company forbids its members taking part in civic duties.

*MR. SPEAKER: Is there a clause to that effect in this Bill?

*MR. BELL: No, Sir.

*MR. SPEAKER: Then it is a rule of the House that a matter affecting railway companies generally cannot be dealt with in debate on a private Railway Bill unless there is a clause in the Bill dealing with that matter.

*MR. BELL: I am sorry that I am debarred from entering upon that question, but at any rate the subject to which I was going to refer is familiar to the whole of the Members of the House, and it is one that has caused a vast deal of indignation amongst railway men.

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is not in order in continuing on the subject.

*MR. BELL said he was not going to discuss it. He asked the House to register their disapproval of the attempts of employers, where it was not desired by the men, in any way to attach them to societies, and make it a condition of their employment that they should become members thereof.

MR. MARKHAM (Nottinghamshire, Mansfield) seconded the Amendment. As it had been ruled that any discussion on the proceedings of the Great Eastern Railway Company would be out of order, he would not be able to raise the question he wished to raise. He would ask the Speaker's special ruling on this question. The Great Eastern Railway Company was the only company in this country that had refused——

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is not entitled to make a speech and then ask if it is in order.

MR. MARKHAM: I beg to second the Amendment.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day six months.'"—(*Mr. Bell.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

MR. PENN (Lewisham) said that Clause 2 was put in the Bill by the directors as a purely permissive clause, in order to enable the railway companies, if they thought fit, to subscribe towards the funds raised by their employees. He must say as a director of the company that he failed to agree with the hon. Member for Derby when he said that the company wished to make membership of the society a condition of employment. That would be a most arbitrary proceeding, and one with which he could not possibly associate himself. But in asking that they might have power to subscribe to the fund, they only took permissive power in the event of the society being started. The society, if started by the men, would be managed by the men, and the company desired to have power to help them. He could not agree with the hon. Member that there were a large number of open sores in connection with the matter, as had been suggested by the hon. Member for Derby. The directors were anxious to help the men in every possible way to practise habits of thrift.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON (Tower Hamlets, Poplar) said he did not think the hon. Member who had spoken as representing the Great Eastern Railway

Company had met two material points raised by the hon. Member for Derby. Though the hon. Gentleman said it would be a voluntary fund, as a matter of fact the men had experience of other funds, and they knew that every man in the service would be practically forced to join.

MR. PENN: I beg the hon. Gentleman's pardon. There are 30,000 members of the staff who are eligible under the existing fund, and only 9,000 are in the fund.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON asked the hon. Member if he would pledge himself on behalf of the railway company that they would put some words in the Bill which would make it perfectly clear that the question of joining or not would be left absolutely voluntary to every servant of the company? Unless the hon. Member gave that pledge he certainly would vote against the Bill as it stood. The hon. Member said that the society would be managed by the men, but that would be useless unless a pledge to this effect were given. The other question raised by the hon. Member for Derby was that the men would not be able to make any alteration whatever in the rules. It seemed to him that while the fund might be nominally managed by the men it would be entirely under the control of the directors of the company. On that point the hon. Member for Lewisham had given no satisfaction.

*MR. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil) said the hon. Member for Lewisham, who spoke for the directors of the railway company, said the employees of the company would be free to join as many like societies as they pleased, even if the Bill became law, but he overlooked the very important factor in the situation that of the employees of the company there were thousands earning less than 20s. a week, and thus they were not in a position to contribute to more than one society. Those who had experience of the industrial world were aware that the man who did not join the society promoted by a company would stand very small chance of being promoted in his occupation. He respectfully submitted that the fact that the fund was to be invested as a part of the Great Eastern Railway Stock removed it outwith the control of the members of the society. It was therefore a purely nominal control which the members would exercise over the fund. The Bill provided that the railway company "may contribute half-yearly out of the revenue of the company such sum as they may from time to time determine towards the funds of the society." This was an attempt to pauperise the working class which should be deprecated most strongly. Let the Great Eastern Railway Company pay their workmen sufficient wages to enable them to pay their contributions to their trade society, and then they would be under no obligation to the company for yearly or half-yearly grants. His strongest objection to this form of society was that it tended to undermine the self-respect of the employees of the company. If this proposal became law and the society was formed it would result in making every employee of the Great Eastern Railway Company who joined it subservient to the will and the wishes of the company. There was no provision in the clause that members of the society on leaving their employment or being dismissed were entitled to be recouped for the payments they had made to the funds of the society. That was a very serious consideration. Unless men were obedient and submissive in every respect, not only to the directors themselves but to the officials under the directors, who were often a thousand times worse than the directors, they were liable to be dismissed, and to lose not only the benefits of the society but also the money they had paid into it. He trusted, therefore, as a matter of fair play that the House would not endorse Clause 27.

MR. BARTLEY (Islington, N.) said it seemed to him exceedingly strange that two Members representing the working classes should object to the scheme proposed. Here was a large company coming forward asking power to subscribe to the funds of a benevolent institution, and it was met by objection. Large corporations had been told that they ought to do more for their employees, and it did seem strange in this case that a gentleman on the Front Opposition

Bench should get up to object to such a scheme. It ought to be the duty of every large corporation, and of small companies also, to subscribe to these funds.

*MR. FENWICK (Northumberland, Wansbeck) said they did not object at all to employers of labour encouraging their workpeople to be thrifty and prudent and to lay by for a rainy day, but they objected to such a scheme as was foreshadowed in this Bill, which might be made a condition of employment between workmen and their employers. Frequently such provisions as this were converted into machinery for coercing workmen to do things which of their free will they were not disposed to do. It was because of the coercive powers that such a provision gave to large employers that they objected to its being inserted in the Bill.

*COLONEL BOWLES (Middlesex, Enfield) hoped that the Bill would be allowed to pass the Second Reading, as the question could be so much more thoroughly discussed in Committee upstairs.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick) said that working men wanted to do their own business, without the intervention of railway directors. There was an element of compulsion running right through the whole of this Bill, which was distasteful to working men who sought independence. They were entitled to form their own opinion, without being led by Committees upstairs.

MR. YOXALL (Northampton, W.) said this matter had been discussed upon a totally new principle. A clause like the one suggested had been inserted in a number of Bills last session, and a Departmental Committee had distinctly laid it down that Parliament might properly interfere by providing against a rule of this kind. If the hon. Member in charge of the Bill maintained silence upon this point they would be bound to vote against the measure.

MR. NANNETTI (Dublin, College Green) said he rose to support the hon. Member for Derby in his opposition to the Bill. Men would be forced to enter the service of this company, and they would be compelled to become contributors to this fund. They claimed the right of a workman to contribute to any fund which he thought was best calculated to advance his own interest. They asked for a free hand for the men, so that in sickness or death, or in leaving one district for employment in another, they could go to their particular society for assistance from the funds. If they carried this objectionable clause to its logical conclusion, this advantage would be denied to the workmen. He entered his strong protest against the clause, which he believed was the thin edge of the wedge for the purpose of intimidating and coercing the workmen.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT (Monmouthshire, W.): I think the hon. Member for Lewisham would shorten this discussion, and save the time of the House, if he would undertake that this clause should make it clear that no compulsion or pressure should be put upon the men to join these societies.

MR. PENN replied that there was no compulsion, simply because the rule was not in existence.

MR. JOYCE (Limerick) contended that in a matter of this kind everything should be done fairly and aboveboard. Workmen should be allowed to choose their own societies. These great companies should not be given the power to coerce their employees to join those societies, which were a source of terror to their employees, who were often tyrannised over by every little official. It was a monstrous thing to try and force such a clause through this House, and he hoped it would be eliminated.

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.) said he was surprised that the Government had not given the House the benefit of their advice on this question. The hon. Member for Lewisham had replied to the appeal made to him by saying that the rules were not yet made. What they wanted to know was whether the company would engage, if the Bill passed and they were empowered to make rules, that it should be part of those rules that no sort of compulsion should be applied, and that this should be embodied in the Bill when it went into Committee. If an undertaking of this kind was not given, it was clear that they would be obliged to proceed to a division. If the Bill was lost it would be entirely the fault of those who were promoting it for not giving the undertaking which was asked for on this particular point.

MR. GRAY (West Ham, N.) said his hon. friend the Member for Lewisham was in a very awkward position, because he was not personally responsible for the Bill, but was merely acting as a mouthpiece of the directors, with whom it was impossible for him to consult. But there was an Instruction on the Paper with regard to the Bill, which would come before the House on Thursday, when a definite reply could be given. There were many other valuable clauses in this Bill, relating to level crossings and the building of bridges, which ought not to be delayed on account of this dispute. He sympathised with the view that this fund should be a voluntary one, but he thought it was a question which could be settled in the Committee upstairs.

MR. ASQUITH (Fifeshire, E.): I understand that the promoters of this Bill, or those representing them, do not feel that they have any authority to give the undertaking which is asked for. Therefore I suggest that in the general interest we should give them an opportunity of obtaining the undertaking we ask for, and for that purpose I now move the adjournment of the debate.

Debate adjourned; to be resumed upon Thursday.

STANDING ORDERS.

Resolutions reported from the Committee:—

1. "That, in the case of the Cowes Ferry Bill [Lords], the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with:—That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill."

2. "That, in the case of the London, Tilbury, and Southend Railway Bill, Petition for additional Provision, the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with:—That the parties be permitted to introduce their additional Provision, if the Committee on the Bill think fit."

3. "That, in the case of the Birmingham (City) Tramways Bill [Lords], the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with:—That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill, provided that the powers to construct Tramways Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 be struck out of the Bill, unless the consent of the local and road authorities shall be proved before the Committee on the Bill:—That the Committee on the Bill do report how far such Order has been complied with."

4. "That, in the case of the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board (Canada Dock Works, etc.) Bill [Lords], the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with:—That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill, provided that the power to enable the promoting Board to purchase 500 acres of land for future dock development be struck out of the Bill:—That the Committee on the Bill do report how far such Order has been complied with."

5. "That, in the case of the Tyneside Tramways and Tramroads Bill [Lords], the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with:—That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill, provided that Tramway No. 3 be struck out of the Bill:—That the Committee on the Bill do report how far such Order has been complied with."

6. "That, in the case of the Harrogate Corporation Bill [Lords], the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with:—That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill, provided that Clause 7 be struck out of the Bill:—That the Committee on the Bill do report how far such Order has been complied with."

7. "That, in the case of the Sutton-in-Ashfield Urban District (Water) Bill [Lords], the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with:—That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill."

Resolutions agreed to.

PETITIONS.

BEER BILL.

Petition from Hurstmonceaux, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

CHURCH DISCIPLINE.

Petition from Wolverhampton, for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (HIGHER GRADE AND EVENING CONTINUATION SCHOOLS).

Petitions for alteration of Law, from Coventry; and Middlesbrough; to lie upon the Table.

OFFICERS OF THE INDIAN STAFF CORPS.

Two Petitions from Officers of the Indian Staff Corps, for redress of grievances; to lie upon the Table.

PARLIAMENTARY FRANCHISE.

Petition from Hastings, for extension to women; to lie upon the Table.

POOR LAW OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1896.

Petition from Wolstanton, for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Leicester (two); London; North Shields; Bradford; Leicestershire; Wharfedale; Kennington (three); Durham; Shipley; Scoonie; Plymouth; Glasgow; Inverness; Sheffield (seven); Kingston-upon-Hull; Dundee; Worthing; Middlesbrough; Newport Pagnell; and Bolton; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Auchterarder (two); Biggar; Cruden; Lanark; Dumfries; Torryburn; Port Glasgow; and Galashiels; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

MINES (COURRIERES COLLIERIES).

Copy presented, of Report to the Secretary of State for the Home Department by four of His Majesty's Inspectors of Mines on the methods of preventing falls of roof adopted at Courrières Collieries, Department of the Pas-de-Calais, France [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

ARMY (LIEUTENANT GENERAL SIR H. E. COLVILE, K.C.M.G., C.B.).

Copy presented, of Correspondence relative to the recall of Lieutenant General Sir H. E. Colvile, K.C.M.G., C.B. [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

ARMY (YEOMANRY CAVALRY).

Copy presented, of Training Return of Yeomanry Cavalry for 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

NAVY (TRAINING OF JUNIOR NAVAL OFFICERS) (COMMITTEE).

Copy presented, of Report of the Committee appointed by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to inquire into and report on the Training and Examination of Junior Naval Officers, with the Circular announcing the Changes to the Fleet [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

CYPRUS.

Copy presented, of Annual Report for 1899–1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

QUESTIONS.

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SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—PEACE NEGOTIATIONS WITH GENERAL BOTHA.

Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carnarvon Boroughs): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether the negotiations with General Louis Botha are concluded; and, if so, can he state the result.

The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.): I have at present no information to give the hon. Gentleman. I will give it him as soon as I can.

BURNING OF TOWNS IN ORANGE RIVER COLONY.

Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether any reports have been received at the War Office of the burning of the towns of Bothaville and Ventersburg in the Orange River Colony, and of the villages of Wilpoort and Dullstroom in the Transvaal; and, if any reports have been received, whether they will be laid upon the Table of the House.

The SECRETARY of STATE for WAR (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford): No despatch has reached the War Office on these points. I will ask Lord Kitchener for a report.

FARM BURNING—CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN LORD ROBERTS AND GENERAL BOTHA.

Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War when the correspondence between Lord Roberts and General Botha, in reference to farm burning, will be laid upon the Table of the House as promised.

Mr. BRODRICK: The correspondence will be laid as soon as possible.

WELSH HOSPITAL IN SOUTH AFRICA.

Lieutenant-Colonel PRYCE-JONES (Montgomery Boroughs): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that there is dissatisfaction among the subscribers to the fund for the establishment and maintenance of the Welsh hospital for South Africa on account of its discontinuance or absorption with another hospital, although Lord Lansdowne had accepted the offer of the committee to provide for its maintenance for another three months; and whether he will state into what hospital the Welsh hospital was absorbed; and whether the order for its absorption was given in accordance with instructions from the Commander-in-Chief or some, and, if so, what, officer in South Africa.

Mr. BRYNMOR JONES (Swansea District): At the same time may I ask the Secretary of State for War whether, upon the discontinuance of the Welsh hospital in South Africa and its absorption into a military hospital, the plant, medicines, and appurtenances of the hospital were taken possession of by the military authorities; whether any, and if any how many, members of the staff of the Welsh hospital were transferred to the military hospital by which it was absorbed; into what hospital was the Welsh hospital merged; and what were the military or administrative reasons which made the absorption of the Welsh hospital expedient after the acceptance by Lord Lansdowne of the offer of the committee to maintain the hospital for another three months.

The FINANCIAL SECRETARY to the WAR OFFICE (Lord Stanley, Lancashire, Westhoughton): I will reply at the same time to the two questions. I am not aware that there exists the dissatisfaction complained of. The hon. secretary of the Welsh Hospital Commission recently called at the Army Medical Department and stated that the committee were perfectly satisfied with the action taken. The hospital has been absorbed into No. 2 General Hospital, by order of the Commander-in-Chief in South Africa. By the terms of the agreement between the committee and the War Office, the hospital equipment is to be handed over to the latter on the former ceasing to maintain the hospital. I am making inquiry from South Africa as to the remaining points raised by the hon. Member for Swansea District.

Mr. BRYNMOR JONES: Is the noble Lord aware that the secretary he refers to is the secretary of the executive committee, and not of the general committee who were instrumental in raising this large fund?

Lord STANLEY: I am not aware of that.

Mr. G. T. KENYON (Denbighshire): Is it not the fact that a considerable amount of the money originally subscribed is still unexpended? What steps are being taken in regard to it?

Lord STANLEY: I am afraid I cannot go into details. Perhaps the hon. Member will put the question down.

SOUTH AFRICAN MEAT CONTRACTS.

Mr. HERBERT LEWIS (Flint Boroughs): I beg to ask the Financial Secretary to the War Office whether he is aware that a contract, dated the 27th October, 1899, was entered into with the South African Cold Storage Company for the supply of fresh meat to the troops in the field at 11d. per pound, the terms implying that it was a live cattle contract, but notwithstanding this, three-fourths of the three million pounds of meat supplied under the contract up to the 1st February, 1900, was refrigerated; whether the contract was renewed in January, 1900, on the same terms subject to a reduction of 2d. per pound on all frozen meat accepted; whether the company has now agreed to refund to the War Department 2d. per pound on all frozen meat paid for at 11d. per pound since the war broke out; what is the date of that agreement; what is the amount of the sum to be refunded; and has the arrangement been carried out; and whether the War Office regards the refund of 2d. per pound as adequate having regard to the fact that very shortly after the 27th October, 1899, the date of the earlier contract, the Cape Government suspended the collection of customs duties upon the importation of fresh and frozen mutton and beef, and that these duties (2d. per pound on mutton and 1d. per pound on beef) would have been recoverable by the War Department from the colony had they remained in force, their suspension being *pro tanto* a loss to Imperial funds and a further gain to the contractors.

LORD STANLEY: The answer to the first two paragraphs of the hon. Member's question is in the affirmative. As regards the third paragraph, the company has agreed to make the refund in question, the agreement being dated 22nd September, 1900. The General Officer Commanding received instructions in December last to make the necessary deduction, but the exact amount of it has not been reported. As regards the fourth paragraph, the suspension of customs duty referred to involved neither gain nor loss to the contractors, as no duty was ever charged by the Colonial Government on meat imported for the use of the troops. The reduction in price is therefore a real reduction of charge.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS: May I ask whether the Controller and Auditor General was wrong in saying that the reduction in the duty made no change in the circumstances of the terms of the contract?

LORD STANLEY: I think the last paragraph shows he was wrong. No duty was imposed by the Colonial Government on meat imported for the troops.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick's): Has the company refunded the money as agreed?

LORD STANLEY: I have said that the General Officer Commanding received instructions in December last to make the necessary reduction.

PENSIONS FOR DISABLED SOLDIERS.

MR. REGINALD LUCAS (Portsmouth): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether, in view of the general interest attaching to the subject, he can now give further information concerning the scale of pensions to be awarded to non-commissioned officers and men who have been rendered wholly or partly incapable of earning a livelihood by reason of disease contracted while serving in South Africa; and whether any communication on the subject has yet been made to the Commissioners of Chelsea Hospital.

LORD STANLEY: The scale contemplated in my former reply is that applicable to men incapacitated by wounds, and a communication has been made to the Chelsea Commissioners to this effect.

VOLUNTEER INFANTRY BRIGADE CAMPS.

COLONEL LUCAS (Suffolk, Lowestoft): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he will state the conditions under which Volunteer infantry brigade camps are to be held this year.

MR. JAMES KENYON (Lancashire, Bury): At the same time may I ask the Financial Secretary to the War Office whether he proposes to have this year camps of exercise or training for Volunteers; and, if so, for how many days; and will opportunities be given to them to fire their musketry course whilst in camp in the same manner as given last year; and will Volunteer officers who attend camps of exercise or training be paid according to the Army rate—namely, the same scale as paid to Militia and Yeomanry officers.

LORD STANLEY: An Army Order will shortly be issued giving the necessary information.

RE-ARMAMENT OF THE VOLUNTEER ARTILLERY.

MR. ORMSBY-GORE (Lincolnshire, Gainsborough): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he can state what progress is being made towards the re-armament of the Volunteer Artillery with weapons of modern ordnance, and, having regard to the statement made by the late Under Secretary for War in the last Parliament as to the probable re-armament of that force with semi-mobile guns, whether steps will be taken to ensure the provision of such guns to the Volunteer Field and Position Artillery as will not impair in any way their mobility in the field.

LORD STANLEY: As my right hon. friend has informed the House, the 4·7 guns for the Volunteers are in course of manufacture, and will, I hope, be delivered before very long. Every consideration is being given to this question, as was explained on Friday last.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): Will the noble Lord be kind enough to say where the guns are being manufactured—not in Germany, I hope?

LORD STANLEY: In various parts of England.

RESERVE REGIMENTS—DISBANDMENT.

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is in a position to state approximately the dates upon which it is proposed to disband the different reserve regiments of cavalry and infantry.

LORD STANLEY: I cannot give exact dates. The regiments will disband at the conclusion of a year's service, or earlier in cases in which a General Officer Commanding recommends it.

CAPTAIN NORTON: Will the officers be disbanded at the same time as the men?

LORD STANLEY: In a great many cases they will, but not in all cases.

ENLISTMENT AGE RULES.

MR. PIRIE (Aberdeen, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether, in the experiment which was made to ascertain the approximate true age of proposed recruits for enlistment, recognition was given to the necessity of making the production of reliable testimony as to age dependent upon acceptance of the recruit; whether, in view of the importance of the question, he will consider the advisability of carrying it out as far as is found possible, and stating on the recruit's attestation paper the proof by which his age was arrived at, so that at least the percentage of men whose correct age is known should be ascertained, and that a safeguard should be given against the despatch of soldiers to India and abroad under the age prescribed by the regulations; can he state how it is intended to determine the correct time at which the proposed pensions are to become due; and whether steps could be taken for arriving at the correct age of the large majority of recruits, seeing that the correct ages of children are ascertained in schools and under the Factory Act.

LORD STANLEY: The acceptance of a recruit is not dependent on the production of a birth certificate, nor could it be made so. It would be quite impracticable to keep recruits waiting while inquiries were being made for the certificates. In the experiment referred to it was impossible to obtain the certificates in the case of forty-five per cent. of the cases taken, and of the rest fifteen per cent. were very doubtful. The medical officer states what he considers, after careful examination, to be the apparent age on the attestation. The age given by the recruit on oath is held to be his true age for reckoning Army service, and the qualifying period for the age pensions will depend on this.

ARMY CONTRACTS—RATIONS, ETC.—PURCHASE IN IRELAND.

MR. FIELD: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can state the amount paid to contractors for native meat and home grown produce supplied to the troops and horses stationed in Ireland, and whether he can give the amount paid to contractors for foreign meat and imported forage supplies; and whether he can state the amount paid for fittings for men and horses of goods manufactured in Ireland, and, approximately, the total amount so claimed as a set-off to the over-taxation of Ireland.

LORD STANLEY: As I have previously explained to the House, it is not possible to obtain figures of the kind referred to without great difficulty, and I am not at present prepared to inflict the labour entailed upon the officers concerned, who are already overworked.

CAPTAIN DONELAN (Cork, E.): Can the noble Lord give us the proportion of foreign to home grown meat at present supplied to the troops in Ireland?

LORD STANLEY: I cannot.

MR. FIELD: Will the noble Lord inquire?

[No answer was returned.]

MR. FIELD: I beg to ask the Financial Secretary to the War Office whether prime oxen were purchased in Dublin market for the use of Boer prisoners at St. Helena, while at the same time the troops stationed in Ireland were mainly fed on imported foreign meat; and whether, seeing that native meat could have been purchased from contractors at the fractional difference of a few pence in each hundred pounds weight, and that the tendered price for the supply of native Irish meat was about half the price paid for frozen meat in South Africa, he can explain why native meat was not purchased for the troops in Ireland.

LORD STANLEY: Cattle were purchased in Dublin for the troops and also for the Boer prisoners at St. Helena. In reply to the second paragraph, I can only say that native meat is largely purchased for the troops in Ireland.

MR. FIELD: Where is it purchased?

LORD STANLEY: In various parts of Ireland.

MR. FIELD: Can the noble Lord specify the places?

LORD STANLEY: I am afraid I cannot.

WINCHESTER SCHOOL RIFLE RANGE.

MR. HOLLAND (Yorkshire, W.R., Rotherham): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that an offer was made to the War Office by a private individual in July, 1897, to provide the School and City of Winchester with a suitable rifle range free of all cost, and that the War Office thought so well of the scheme that they expressed their desire to take it over themselves; and whether he can explain why, after a delay of three and a half years, an intimation has been sent from the War Office that nothing is intended to be done, with the result that rifle shooting in the neighbourhood has been killed, and persons elsewhere discouraged from making similar offers in their respective localities.

LORD STANLEY: The head master of Winchester School made a suggestion in 1897 that he should erect a range without any expense to the public, but subsequently, in the course of negotiation, proposed to contribute handsomely to a range to be laid out by the War Department. The estimated cost was found to be £20,000 for 500 acres; Dr. Fearon's proposed contribution was found to be £500. The War Department, none the less, endeavoured to carry through the matter, but found—after long negotiation—that the Ecclesiastical Commissioners required £15,500 for 170 acres. As the range would have cost double the sum estimated, and other ranges had been provided for the troops in the neighbourhood, the Secretary of State did not feel justified in pursuing the matter further at so great a cost for the use of the school.

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.): How many Irish schools are provided with rifle ranges?

[No answer was returned.]

NEW BATTLESHIPS—LAUNCHING WEIGHTS, &c.

MR. KEARLEY (Devonport): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty what were the respective launching weights of the battleships "Ocean," "Implacable," "Bulwark," and "Montagu," and the period intervening in each case between the laying down and the launching.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER, Belfast, W.): The launching weights of the ships named and the periods intervening in each case between the laying down and the launching are as follows:—

	Launching weight.	Period intervening between the laying down and the launching.	
	Tons.	Months.	Days.
"Ocean" ..	.. 7,266	.. 16	22
"Implacable"	.. 6,000	.. 8	—
"Bulwark"	.. 5,930	.. 7	—
"Montagu"	.. 5,560	.. 15	11

CHINA—STRENGTH OF BRITISH AND OTHER NAVIES IN CHINESE WATERS.

SIR CHRISTOPHER FURNESS (Hartlepool): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if he will inform the House as to the number and description of the ships representing Great Britain in Chinese waters and on the Yang-tsze River; and also as to the number and description of the ships representing each of the other European Powers and the United States.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: The Naval forces of the Powers named now in Chinese waters appear from the last published Returns to be as follows:—Great Britain: 4 battleships, 15 cruisers, 23 small vessels (of which 2 cruisers and 4 small vessels are on the Yang-tsze River); France: 1 battleship, 9 cruisers, 22 small vessels (of which 3 small vessels are on the Yang-tsze); Russia: 5 battleships, 6 cruisers, 30 small vessels and torpedo boats; Germany: 4 battleships, 10 cruisers, 10 small vessels (of which 2 cruisers and 2 small vessels are on the Yang-tsze); Italy: 6 cruisers; Austria: 4 cruisers (of which one is on the Yang-tsze); Portugal: 1 cruiser, 2 small vessels; United States: 1 battleship, 2 coast defence ships, 8 cruisers, 2 small vessels.

NORTH CHINA EXPEDITION—CLOTHING OF INDIAN TROOPS.

SIR MANCHERJEE BHOWNAGGREE (Bethnal Green, N.E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he has any official information showing that the Indian troops and camp followers serving in North China were not provided with such suitable warm clothing as would enable them to resist the intense cold of that region, and that consequently they suffered great hardships; and will he state how many casualties and deaths from sickness have occurred among them up to the date of the last official reports received here or in India.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Lord G. HAMILTON, Middlesex, Ealing): I have not seen the reports referred to. An ample supply of warm clothing was provided for troops and followers, and we have no reason to suppose that there has been any sickness or suffering from any deficiencies in this respect. The percentage of sick troops in hospital from all causes on the 1st January was only 3½. The deaths have not been reported.

TRADE IN AFRICAN PROTECTORATES.

MR. JOHN ELLIS (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what has been the total trade (exports and imports) of each of the following protectorates, namely, Uganda, East Africa, Central Africa, and Somaliland, since their creation up to 31st December, 1900; and whether he can state approximately the figures of the trade in each case from and to Great Britain and Ireland.

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Viscount CRANBORNE, Rochester): The statistics available are to be found in the "Statistical Abstract for the Colonies and other Possessions of the United Kingdom," presented to Parliament in 1899 and 1900. As regards Uganda, figures are not available for the years after 1896, owing to the protracted disturbances in that protectorate. The trade, however, has been comparatively small, and, such as it is, it may be considered to be practically included in the figures representing the imports and exports of the East Africa Protectorate, through which they must have passed.

Even with regard to the remaining protectorates, in consequence of the recent character of their creations there has been a want of uniformity in the method of computing the statistics, both as between the several protectorates and in respect of the basis of computation in any one protectorate. Omitting Uganda, for the reasons stated, the totals of exports and imports are:—For East Africa, from 1895 to 31st March, 1900, excluding "administration" imports and imports of material for railway construction and of provision for those engaged thereon, the figures are: Imports, R.24,711,876; exports, R.6,260,215; total, R.30,972,091 (£1,976,091). For British Central Africa, from 1895 to 31st March, 1900, including "administration" imports, the figures are: Imports, £580,061; exports, £187,718; total, £767,779. For Somaliland, from 1892 to 31st March, 1900, the figures are: Imports, R.42,160,470; exports, R.42,501,390; total, R.84,661,860 (£5,157,559). The proportion of British trade to total trade can only be given to a very limited degree. As regards the East Africa Protectorate, the imports from the United Kingdom are approximately from 25 to 30 per cent. of the total. The exports to the United Kingdom were about 25 per cent. of the total in 1896–7. Later information is not available. As regards British Central Africa, nothing can be stated as to the proportion of the exports going to the United Kingdom. Of the imports, between 80 and 90 per cent. came from the United Kingdom in 1899–1900. In regard to Somaliland, no particulars can be given of the share of the United Kingdom in the total trade.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.): Will Papers giving further information be presented before the Supplementary Estimates are taken?

*VISCOUNT CRANBORNE: The hon. Member forgets that at the beginning of my answer I said that this information was given in Papers presented to Parliament in 1899–1900.

MR. LOUGH: But will the figures be brought up to date before the Supplementary Vote is taken?

*VISCOUNT CRANBORNE: I cannot promise.

NICARAGUA CANAL—HAY-PAUNCEFOTE TREATY.

SIR CHRISTOPHER FURNESS: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if, without detriment to the public interest, he can inform the House what is the existing position of the negotiations relative to the Hay-Pauncefote Treaty for the repeal of the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty, and whether it is intended that the Treaty shall be modified in the sense proposed by the United States Senate, namely, that in the event of a canal being constructed it shall be fortified by and shall be under the control of the United States in the event of war; whether negotiations are proceeding with other Powers in regard to this question; and when he proposes to place copies of the Correspondence relating to the matter upon the Table of the House.

*VISCOUNT CRANBORNE: The modifications in the Hay-Pauncefote Convention proposed by the United States Senate have not been accepted by His Majesty's Government. A communication to this effect was made yesterday by Lord Pauncefote to Mr. Hay. His Majesty's Government are not engaged in negotiations with any other Power in regard to this question. I will ask the hon. Member to postpone his question with regard to presentation of Papers for a few days.

ASHANTI EXPENDITURE—THE GOLDEN STOOL.

*MR. C. P. SCOTT (Lancashire, Leigh): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, before the Supplementary Estimate for expenditure incurred in respect of the recent disturbances in Ashanti is brought forward, he will distribute to Members Papers dealing with the events which led up to those disturbances; and whether he will now state what were the instructions given to Sir F. Hodgson as to obtaining possession of the Golden Stool and the collection of a war indemnity.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.): Papers have been presented, and I am informed that they will be distributed on Tuesday. No instructions were given to Sir F. Hodgson as to the Golden Stool, but he was authorised, on the advice of himself and the Resident at Coomassie, to take steps to raise a revenue of £12,000 a year. The Resident recommended that this should not be called a tribute, or tax, but should be levied as interest on the unpaid war indemnities, which he believed the Ashantis would consider a perfectly just and legitimate debt.

MR. JAMES LOWTHER (Kent, Isle of Thanet): Can my right hon. friend say whether any estimate has been placed upon the value of the Golden Stool?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: The Golden Stool has a "moral and intellectual value."

*MR. C. P. SCOTT: Is not the Golden Stool regarded as the symbol of possession?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: Precisely; that is the "moral and intellectual value."

MR. LOUGH: Did Sir James Willcocks make any settlement on this point?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: No, Sir; that was left to the present Resident.

MR. LOUGH: Shall we see the Papers before the Supplementary Estimates are taken?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I do not think there is any chance of getting them before Friday.

INDIAN CABLE RATES.

SIR EDWARD SASSOON (Hythe): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether the Indian Government receives the same rate for the transit across India of messages between the Governments of the Australasian Colonies and the United Kingdom as is received for commercial telegrams; and, if not, what transit rate is paid by each of the various Governments concerned, and for what period in each case such rate has been in use; will he state the total number of words which, for each year from 1891–2 till the present time, has been exchanged between India and the United Kingdom as State or Government messages; whether, for each of the years in question, the Governments of India and the United Kingdom have paid for Government telegrams the same rate as currently charged for commercial telegrams; and, if not, will he state during what period and to what extent such rate for Government telegrams between India and the United Kingdom has been varied; and, if it is convenient to furnish the number of words in these Government telegrams, will he give the sum annually paid since 1891–2 by the Indian Government for such telegrams sent and received between India and the United Kingdom.

LORD G. HAMILTON: The transit rate across India for messages of the Governments of the Australasian Colonies and the United Kingdom is the same as that received for commercial telegrams. The second and fourth questions will have to be referred to India for an answer. State messages from India include messages to the War Office, Admiralty, etc., and we have no information in this Office regarding these. The answer to the third question is "Yes." Government messages between India and the United Kingdom are paid for at the same rate as commercial messages.

SIR EDWARD SASSOON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether, in view of the impossibility of gathering complete information on the subject from some of the annual reports published by the Indian Government Telegraph Department, he will give separately the number of words constituting the telegrams which for each year have passed over the Indian land lines from Bombay to Madras and *vice versa* as transit messages under the headings of private, State, and press, since the Indian Government became a partner with the Eastern Telegraph Company, the Eastern Extension, etc., Telegraph Company, and the Indo-European Telegraph Company, in the fund which, being known as the Australian Message Fund, was formed in 1891–2 in connection with the reduction of telegraph rates between the United Kingdom and Australia; and will he give separately under the above headings the total sum for each year since India became a partner to this Australian Message

Fund, which has been received by India as transit rate; and also the total sum for each year which would have been paid to India for the number of words which have actually been carried in transit, at the rate which prevailed before the reduction in 1891–2 of the Indian transit rate, made in favour of telegrams to and from Australia and the Far East.

LORD G. HAMILTON: As I understand the question, it means a wish to know the number of words, divided into private, State, and press, which have transited India between Bombay and Madras, and have been exchanged with Australia on the one side and the west of India on the other. Also the revenue derived from such messages under the present Indian transit rate, and the revenue which would have been derived from the same number of words under the Indian transit rate in force previous to the Australasian Message Fund Agreement. I am afraid I cannot give this information, though I could give the revenue or charge without much difficulty. If my hon. friend will communicate with me I will see what I can do to enable him to get the information he desires.

SIR EDWARD SASSOON: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, if he would say whether in all cases, as is the case at present in communicating with India, the full commercial rate is charged for Government telegrams exchanged with the United Kingdom; and, if not, in the case of which telegraph companies and to which countries a rate less than the full rate is charged for Government telegrams; and can he state the number of words or the total value of telegrams which, annually passing as Government telegrams, have been sent and received between the United Kingdom and India since the year 1891–2.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.): No, Sir. Reduced rates are charged to South Africa and certain places in East Africa and West Africa by the Eastern Telegraph Company and its associated companies; to Australasia and certain places in Asia beyond India by the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company; to North America by the North Atlantic Cable Companies; to the West Indies by the North Atlantic Cable Companies and the West India Telegraph Direct Company; to South America, so far as the Eastern and its associated telegraph companies and the North Atlantic Cable Companies are concerned, and to Cyprus, by the Eastern Telegraph Company. The Postmaster General is not in a position to state the number of words or the value of Government telegrams between the United Kingdom and India, seeing that many of the telegrams do not pass through the hands of his officials, but are dealt with direct by the companies.

SIR EDWARD SASSOON: Can the hon. Gentleman say where I can get the information?

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I do not know, except by applying to the companies.

LAW OFFICERS' SALARIES.

MR. COGHILL (Stoke-upon-Trent): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether, in view of the burdens placed on the nation by the prolongation of the war in South Africa, he proposes to make any reduction in the sums that are paid, partly for fees and partly for salary, to the Attorney and Solicitor General.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir M. HICKS BEACH, Bristol, W.): No, Sir, I do not contemplate making any such proposal.

PORT SANITARY AUTHORITIES—COST OF MAINTENANCE.

COLONEL SADLER (Middlesbrough): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether, in view of the ever increasing expense of maintaining the various port sanitary authorities of the country, which now falls solely on the seaport local authorities, and having regard to the fact that inland towns and districts are also interested in the prevention of the importation of infectious diseases into the country, he will recommend that all or part of the expenditure thus incurred should become a national charge.

Sir M. HICKS BEACH: My right hon. friend has asked me to answer this question. This matter has been carefully considered on more than one occasion in recent years. His Majesty's Government see no sufficient reason for altering the decision that has been arrived at by previous Governments, or for relieving the outports from the duty that has always been incumbent on them of preventing, at an expense by no means large, the introduction of infectious diseases into the country.

COINAGE—HALF-CROWNS AND FLORINS.

Mr. CROMBIE (Kincardineshire): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether, considering the confusion arising from the similarity of the florin and half-crown pieces, he will take the opportunity of the proposed issue of new coins to withdraw the latter from circulation.

Sir M. HICKS BEACH: It is not proposed to discontinue the coinage of half-crowns, and I do not think such a course would meet with general approval. Consideration, however, will be given to the point whether the designs of the two coins can be made more distinct.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN THE WHARFEDALE UNION, YORKSHIRE.

Mr. FLOWER (Bradford, W.): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board if he can state the number of cases of infectious diseases in the Wharfedale Union in Yorkshire which have been reported in the last five years.

The PRESIDENT of the LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. Walter Long, Bristol, E.): The Returns for 1900 for this Union are not at present complete, but in respect of the five years ending on 31st December, 1899, the total number of cases was 1,181.

SMALL DWELLINGS ACQUISITION ACT, 1899.

Mr. HORNER (Lambeth, N.): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he can state how many local authorities in the United Kingdom have put in operation the Small Dwellings Acquisition Act, 1899; how many local authorities in the County of London have done so; what has been the number of applications in the United Kingdom generally since the passing of the Act; what the number in the County of London for the same period; and how many of these applications respectively have been granted.

Mr. WALTER LONG: The Local Government Board have no jurisdiction under the Act in Scotland or Ireland. As regards England and Wales, I am afraid I cannot give the particulars desired. As was intimated recently in reply to a question by my hon. friend the Member for North Islington, my information is limited to cases of applications by local authorities to the Board for sanction when loans are required for the purposes of the Act. I may add that in London such loans are not sanctioned by the Local Government Board, but by the London County Council.

Mr. HORNER: Will my right hon. friend say where I can get the information?

Mr. WALTER LONG: I only have information of the cases in which application is made to the Local Government Board. Where the local authorities do not apply to the Board, I have no information.

Mr. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.): Is it a fact that in January last the Local Government Board had applications from Fulham and Hampstead to put the Act in force, and sent a reply?

Mr. WALTER LONG: As I believe the reply was sent to the hon. Member, he himself knows best.

MAGISTRATES AND THE OATH OF ALLEGIANCE.

Mr. LLOYD MORGAN (Carmarthenshire, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether on the demise of the Crown magistrates already on the Commission of the Peace are obliged to take the oath of allegiance to the new Sovereign, or whether it is merely optional on their part.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. RITCHIE, Croydon): I am advised that magistrates who are duly qualified may, notwithstanding the demise of the Crown, lawfully proceed in the execution of their duties without taking any fresh oath; but that it is proper and desirable that they should embrace an early opportunity of taking anew the oath of allegiance and the judicial oath.

DRAYCOTT (DERBYSHIRE) CEMETERY.

SIR WALTER FOSTER (Derbyshire, Ilkeston): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is aware that, notwithstanding that the Burial Act of 1900 came into operation on the 1st of January last, the Parish Council of Draycott, Derbyshire, have been required to divide their cemetery, opened since the 1st of January, into consecrated and unconsecrated parts, in accordance with a plan sanctioned by the late Home Secretary prior to the passing of the said Act; and whether, seeing that this deprives the burial authority of the discretionary power in regard to consecration given by that Act, and subjects them to an enactment which has been now repealed, he will take steps for the withdrawal of this requirement.

*MR. RITCHIE: The division of the burial ground in question into consecrated and unconsecrated parts was approved by my predecessor in accordance with an application made by the parish council before the Burial Act of last year was passed. I am advised that the obligation of the burial authority to proceed to the consecration of the part so approved is not affected by the passing of the Act. I may add that even under the new law the question of the consecration of burial grounds is not left entirely to the discretion of the burial authority.

In reply to a further question by Sir WALTER FOSTER, Mr. RITCHIE said he was of opinion that burial grounds approved prior to the passing of the Act must be dealt with in accordance with the old Act.

REPORT OF PATENT LAW COMMITTEE.

MR. CAWLEY (Lancashire, Prestwich): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he can say when the Report of the Committee on Patent Law will be published.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): The Report of the Committee was presented yesterday, and will, I hope, be in the hands of Members very shortly.

ALL-NIGHT SITTINGS.—TEMPERATURE OF HOUSE.

*MR. ARTHUR LEE (Hampshire, Fareham): I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works whether he could undertake that on any future occasion when circumstances may require that Members of this House should be kept up all night the normal temperature of the House should be kept up also.

THE FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS (Mr. AKERS DOUGLAS, Kent, St. Augustine's): I can assure my hon. friend that every care shall be taken to keep up the normal temperature of the House throughout the night, if, unfortunately, we should again have to undergo the experience of an all-night sitting. The records taken, which I shall be pleased to let my hon. friend see, show that the temperature was very evenly maintained throughout the early hours of Friday last.

DUCHY OF CORNWALL—COAL ROYALTIES IN SOMERSETSHIRE.

MR. STRACHEY (Somersetshire, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he can state the amount received from royalty by the Duchy of Cornwall upon coal worked in the parish of Farrington Gurney, Somerset, and also the amount received from royalty upon coal worked in the parish of Clandown, Midsomer Norton, Somerset.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I regret that I am unable to give the information asked for, as the boundaries of the collieries which work coal belonging to the Duchy of Cornwall do not coincide with the parish boundaries, and coal of other owners is raised through the same shafts, the royalties upon such coal not being known to the Duchy officers. The total amount of royalties received by the Duchy is given in the accounts annually presented to Parliament.

STOLEN POSTAGE STAMPS.

Mr. LODER (Brighton): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether, seeing that new postage stamps will now have to be issued, the Postmaster General can see his way to perforating or otherwise marking in a distinctive manner penny stamps which may be used in filling up the shilling Savings Bank forms, so that the fraudulent use of the ordinary penny stamp may as far as possible be avoided.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The Postmaster General has no evidence of any extensive use of Savings Bank stamp deposit forms for the disposal of stolen postage stamps; and to provide that none but special stamps should be used on such forms would detract from the simplicity and consequent usefulness of the arrangement. No perforated stamp is accepted as a part of a deposit; and any firm can thus remove temptation to dishonesty of the kind indicated by having its ordinary penny stamps perforated.

THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES—BINDING OF FREE COPIES.

Colonel MILWARD (Warwickshire, Stratford-upon-Avon): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether the binding of the volumes of *Hansard's Debates* supplied to Members may be improved, and whether a cloth binding similar to that used for the public general statutes, which are also supplied gratuitously, may be employed.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: Yes, Sir, this shall be done if I receive from my hon. friend any evidence to show that the change is generally desired by Members.

SECOND DIVISION CLERKS.

Captain NORTON: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury if he can state how many senior assistant clerks (abstracter class) have been promoted to the second division under Clause 15 of the Order in Council of 29th November, 1898.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: Yes, Sir; sixty-eight.

ROYAL PARKS, KEW GARDENS, ETC.

Mr. T. M. HEALY: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury if he would consent to a Return showing the acreage of the Royal Parks in Great Britain and Ireland, and their annual cost for the last ten years, with details of expenditure showing the weekly wages of workmen engaged respectively on roads, on paths, in gardening, the road and path mileage and cost per yard, the cost of gravel, sand, and stone, the number of lamps per mile and cost, the salaries of park-keepers, gatemen, rangers, and officials in each grade, and any other heads of expenditure..

I beg also to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he would give a Return showing for Kew Gardens, London, and Botanic Gardens, Dublin, the respective acreage; the area under glass; the annual cost for ten years of trees, shrubs, flowers, and seeds: the number of workmen and their wages; the number of scientific men employed and their salaries and emoluments; the date of the respective foundations; and the total cost of both to the State.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I shall be happy to give a Return showing the acreage of the Royal Parks in Great Britain and Ireland, of Kew Gardens, and of the Botanic Gardens, Dublin, and the total expenditure on each during the last ten years. I am unable to ascertain the total cost of each to the State since their foundation. On 21st March, 1899, my predecessor gave to the hon. Member the information which he desires as to the road mileage and cost per yard,† and details of the expenditure on wages and salaries will be found in the Estimates.

Mr. T. M. HEALY: Will the hon. Gentleman include in the Return the details I ask for, so that all can understand them?

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† See *The Parliamentary Debates* [Fourth Series], Vol. lxviii., page 1558.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I see no objection to giving some of them, but to include those not already available would involve a great deal of trouble and labour without compensating advantages.

POSTAL SERVICE—AGE LIMIT FOR COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether it would be possible to allow those who entered the postal service under the old regulations to compete up to the five years limit, seeing that it has been impossible for a majority of those affected by the alteration to make any improvement since the intended change was notified.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: Yes, Sir, this has been arranged.

SCOTTISH MUSSEL FISHERIES.

MR. TULLY (Leitrim, S.): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether he is aware that the Commissioners of Woods and Forests and Board of Trade are preventing the mussel fishermen of Port Glasgow, Greenock, Dumbarton, and Cardross from having the free use of the banks and mussel beds; whether the Fisheries Board have leased the mussel beds opposite Port Glasgow to an ex-official member of their own Board at a nominal rent of 20s. on a thirty-one years lease; and whether he will hold a public inquiry into all the circumstances connected with this transaction.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire): I am informed by the Fishery Board that the reason for the action stated in the first paragraph of the hon. Member's question was the long-continued complaint of the line fishermen of Scotland of the growing scarcity of mussels for bait on account of the reckless depletion of the Clyde mussel beds, which are supported by the recommendations of the Departmental Committee of 1889. Under Section 12 of the Sea Fisheries Regulation (Scotland) Act, 1895, the Fishery Board leased the mussel beds in question from the Crown at an annual charge of £1, and publicly advertised for a sub-tenant on terms that were the same to all. The lessee was never an official of the Fishery Board and was not in their employment at the time of entering on the lease, though, as an expert, he had been employed by them formerly. He was selected entirely on his merits, being one of the best authorities on the subject in Scotland. The terms of the lease were adjusted after consultation by the Fishery Board with the town councils of Greenock and Port Glasgow. The Secretary for Scotland sees no cause for any inquiry.

IRISH LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD STAFF.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if the Local Government Board for Ireland have increased their staff of auditors, inspectors, and clerks since the Local Government Act (Ireland) came into operation; and, if so, can he say how many of each have been appointed, and at what salaries.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover): There has been an increase in the staff of the Local Government Board since the passing of the Act of 1898. Details of the increase under the heads mentioned in the question, with the salaries of the officers, will be found on a comparison of the Estimates of the Department for 1901 (Class II., page 201) with the Estimates for the current and past two years.

SMALL HOUSES ACQUISITION ACT.

MR. FIELD: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he would be willing to introduce an Amendment to the Small Houses Acquisition Act, Clause 2, subsection (c), that the title to the ownership is one which an ordinary mortgagee would be willing to accept, and insert the word "purchaser" instead of "mortgagee," and also modify Registration Clause 7 by removing the personal liability of the registrar, and the limit of time reduced to twelve years as under the Conveyancing Act.

Mr. WYNDHAM: I have already informed the hon. Member that this Act, which became law in August, 1899, has been in operation in Ireland for so limited a time as to offer insufficient grounds for considering the question of further legislation. When the Government are in a position to form an opinion as to how far it would be desirable or possible, by legislation, to modify the machinery of the Act, the suggestions of the hon. Member will be considered.

ROXBORO ROAD SCHOOLS, LIMERICK.

Mr. JOYCE (Limerick): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state to what uses are the premises of the Roxboro Road Schools, Limerick, and the lands that constitute that endowment, now applied.

Mr. WYNDHAM: The Roxboro Road Schools have been let to Dean Gregg, at a rent of £20 a year, which, with the dividends on the funded portion of the endowment, is being accumulated in the hands of the Commissioners of Education.

COUNTY DOWN CONSTABULARY.

Mr. J. P. FARRELL (Longford, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state how many constables off the seniority list in County Down have been advanced to the rank of acting sergeant since 1st January, 1900, and how many of them are Roman Catholics; and whether he can state what proportion the Roman Catholic constables in the county bear to non-Catholics.

Mr. WYNDHAM: Seven constables serving in Down have been promoted to the rank of acting sergeant since the 1st January, 1900; one of them is a Roman Catholic. There is no seniority list. There are 117 Roman Catholic constables in the county at present, and 91 of other religious denominations.

NURSES IN IRISH WORKHOUSES.

Mr. J. P. FARRELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland will he explain why the Local Government Board are insisting on the appointment of trained nurses for the position of assistant nurses in workhouse hospitals, and refusing to allow boards of guardians to appoint girls to these positions who could be trained (at a great saving to the rates) under the eyes of the medical officer and nurse in charge; and whether he will order this order of the Local Government Board to be withdrawn.

Mr. WYNDHAM: In the interests of the sick poor it is necessary that the assistant nurse of a small workhouse hospital should be an experienced, qualified nurse, as she has entire charge of the sick during the temporary absence of the nurse from any cause, besides having probably to take charge of patients at night in many cases. The opinion of the Local Government Board is that no person should be appointed and paid for discharging the duties of a nurse unless she has been sufficiently trained. The Board does not ask that an assistant nurse should be fully trained within the meaning of Section 58 (2) (a) (ii.) of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898, and the Board has always been glad to encourage boards of guardians to train nurses whenever a systematic course of training has been proposed under sufficient and competent teachers. This has been done in some unions. The Board is, however, unable to approve of proposals that inexperienced untrained girls should be permitted to attempt to discharge nursing duties, and to acquire the status of a nurse without any sufficient or systematic instruction.

Mr. J. P. FARRELL: If the boards consent to send these girls to be properly trained, will the Local Government Board be prepared to make them a grant-in-aid in the same way as is done in the case of fully-trained nurses?

Mr. WYNDHAM: That is a proper subject for inquiry, and I will look into it.

LONGFORD CROWN SOLICITOR.

Mr. J. P. FARRELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland to state what is the salary of the Crown Solicitor of Longford county;

what amount he receives for the office of local registrar of titles; can he state how many appearances this Crown Solicitor makes in court in the exercise of the duties of his office; how many consultations he has to attend; whether he prepares any reports or gives advices to the constabulary; and how long has he been now appointed to this office.

MR. WYNDHAM: The salary of the Crown Solicitor for Longford is £275 a year; as local registrar of titles he is paid a salary of £300 a year. The Crown Solicitor conducts all Crown business at assizes or quarter sessions, and also at petty sessions when so directed. He prepares reports when such are necessary in the discharge of his duties, and likewise advises the constabulary. The present holder of the office was appointed to the united offices of Crown and Sessional Crown Solicitor in 1889; he was originally appointed to the latter office in 1863.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: Can the right hon. Gentleman give the number of appearances which this gentleman made last year in return for his salary?

MR. WYNDHAM: No, Sir; but I gather that his duties are very multifarious in their nature.

IRISH EDUCATION COMMISSIONERS' STORES.

MR. NANNETTI (Dublin, College Green): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether complaints have been received from the Dublin branch of the Bookbinders' and Machine Rulers' Society as to the quantity of Readers and other school books which have been imported into the Education Commissioners' stores in Marlborough Street, and of the hardship inflicted on Dublin bookbinders by this action; and whether he will give a Return showing the number of such books sent to these stores, with the names of the publishers supplying same and the places where the work is executed.

MR. WYNDHAM: Complaints of the character mentioned were recently made to the Commissioners of National Education by the society in question. The Commissioners, upon communicating with the firm by which the books are supplied, were assured that they were printed and bound in Dublin. In view of this assurance, I do not think any useful purpose would be served by granting the Return indicated, but if the hon. Member has any further representations to make in the matter, and will communicate them to me, I shall be happy to cause further inquiry to be made.

IRISH NATIONAL SCHOOLS—BUILDING ESTIMATES.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: I beg to ask the Financial Secretary to the Treasury when it is proposed to reconsider the Estimate for building national schools in Ireland under Plan No. IV. A of the Board of Works; and whether, in the case of managers whose claims for extras have been recommended by the Education Board inside the last two years for an increased grant, such claims will be considered in any increase in amounts proposed to be given.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The revision referred to in the first paragraph is now in progress, and will be proceeded with as rapidly as the pressure of other work allows. It will not be possible to make the decision retrospective so as to apply it to cases already dealt with.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: Can the hon. Gentleman say when the result of the revision will be made known?

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I am afraid I cannot; but there will be no unnecessary delay. The staff which has to do the work has, however, other pressing duties which must not be neglected at the moment.

BOYLE GUARDIANS—CASE OF JOSEPH GRADY.

MR. TULLY: I beg to ask the Financial Secretary to the War Office whether a claim has been received from the Foyle Board of Guardians for a sum of £5 5s. for the maintenance of a boy named Joseph Grady, the son of Private John Grady, now serving with the first battalion of the Connaught Rangers;

and whether he will direct that this sum, which is calculated at 3d. a day, will be forwarded to the workhouse authorities in Boyle.

Lord STANLEY: This claim has been received. Under the Army Act the man is only liable to a stoppage of 3d. for the support of his family. This 3d. has been paid to the man's wife. The clerk to the guardians has been informed accordingly.

NAVY ESTIMATES.

Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury when the Navy Estimates will be circulated.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I hope this evening.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): When does the right hon. Gentleman propose to move the Speaker out of the chair on them?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I am afraid I cannot indulge in any conjectures on that subject at the present moment.

NEW BILLS.

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS ACTS AMENDMENT.

Bill to amend the Acts relating to Industrial Schools, ordered to be brought in by Dr. Macnamara, Mr. Flower, Captain Norton, Sir Fortescue Flannery, and Mr. Corrie Grant.

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

"To amend the Acts relating to Industrial Schools," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Friday, 22nd March, and to be printed. [Bill 94.]

SOVEREIGN'S OATH ON ACCESSION.

Bill to amend the Sovereign's Accession Oath as regards the statements in it concerning the Roman Catholic religion, ordered to be brought in by Mr. William Redmond, Mr. Blake, Mr. Abraham, Captain Donelan, Mr. Patrick O'Brien, Mr. Flynn, Mr. Hayden, Mr. Murphy, and Mr. Boland.

SOVEREIGN'S OATH ON ACCESSION BILL.

"To amend the Sovereign's Accession Oath as regards the statements in it concerning the Roman Catholic Religion," presented.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read the first time."—(*Mr. William Redmond.*)

***Mr. WILLIAM JOHNSTON** (Belfast, S.): I rise to oppose this Bill. The First Lord of the Treasury told us yesterday that there would be no objection to the appointment of a Joint Committee of both Houses of Parliament to consider this question. I think it entirely premature to introduce a Bill dealing with the matter, until the presentation of the report of the Joint Committee of the two Houses appointed to consider whether any alteration of the King's Oath is necessary. The hon. Member who is going to introduce this Bill would like to obliterate from the Oath taken by His Majesty on his Accession and Coronation, the word "Protestant," and everything that would maintain the Protestant succession to the Crown of these realms. I feel very strongly on this question, and that it is extremely undesirable in the present state of political opinion and the state of affairs in Europe, that the one throne in Europe which is securely fixed in the affections of the people should be tampered with. I do not say if the Oath taken by His Majesty in the House of Lords were to be considered now for the first time that the form of words in it would exactly suit the present day; but I feel sure that our ancestors who assisted to build up the great fabric of the British Constitution, and based it on the Protestant religion, were fully justified in the protest that they made against the efforts which had been persistently used from time to time to destroy the civil and religious liberties of the people, and to establish the Roman Catholic religion. I will not take up the time of the House —[Cries from the Irish benches of "Go on!"]—for I hope I know what is due to the House. I know hon. Members are anxious to consider other important matters, and I am not one of those who will trespass on the time of the House of Commons at any undue length. Still I feel bound on this occasion to enter a protest against any attempt to tamper with the Protestantism of the British Constitution.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the first time; to be read a second time upon Wednesday, 3rd April, and to be printed. [Bill 95.]

SUPPLY (ARMY ESTIMATES).

Order read, for resuming Adjourned Debate on Amendment to Question [11th March], "That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair."

And which Amendment was—

> "To leave out from the word 'That,' to the end of the Question, in order to add the words 'in the opinion of this House, the public interest requires that a complete and immediate inquiry be made into all the circumstances connected with the removal from his command at Gibraltar of Major General Sir Henry Colvile, K.C.M.G., C.B.; instead thereof."—(*Mr. Charles Douglas.*)

Question again proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

*COLONEL BLUNDELL (Lancashire, Ince): I have no knowledge of Sir Henry Colvile's case or of the case of the Secretary of State for War, beyond what I heard last night. The reason why I wish to make a few remarks is that this is, in my view, a case of an officer invited to resign his appointment for one thing only, when, in reality, he is removed for something else. In my view the false or incomplete issue upon which Sir Henry Colvile was called upon to resign has wrecked his career by inducing him to write to the press. He was invited to resign upon the Lindley affair, but the whole facts of that affair had been gone into before he was reappointed to the command at Gibraltar. Whether Colonel Spragge made a good or a bad defence could not affect the question whether Sir Henry Colvile should have gone on when he got Colonel Spragge's message. The fateful moment for General Colvile was when he decided to go on and not to go back to Lindley. Sir Henry Colvile's decision, which was either right or wrong, was made anterior to Colonel Spragge's defence. I venture to think that he was recalled for the reasons stated in the speech of the right hon. the Secretary of State for War, which I will read.

> "Lord Roberts stated that, in his opinion, on two occasions in the field General Colvile had shown a want of forwardness, of enterprise, and of sound judgment which are essential qualifications for a command. He considered that in twice leaving a body of cavalry in difficulties he set an example which, if followed, would be fatal to an army in the field. Other circumstances had come to Lord Roberts's notice in which General Colvile's relations with his subordinates and the absence of sufficient control and supervision in his command were such as to seriously impair the confidence which troops should have in their leaders. I make that statement by Lord Roberts's desire."

Now, to suggest resignation upon the Lindley affair, which had already been decided, was what no man who was prepared to stand a court-martial about the Lindley affair could possibly accede to. I venture to think that, in such a complicated case, it would have been better to have recalled Sir Henry Colvile direct. He need not have been employed again unless the views of the authorities changed. But they might have changed, for it must be recollected that at Paardeberg it was the action of part of his division—the Canadians and the 7th Company of the Engineers, supported by the Gordon Highlanders—in pushing forward at three in the morning, and entrenching themselves within eighty yards of Cronje's defences, which finally forced on the surrender of the Boer commander. This act showed resource and an appreciation of the conditions of modern warfare which we do not always find; now the question arises, ought General Colvile to have the credit of this? I think so, because I recall that he advocated the same system at Maggersfontein. Thus General Colvile had a great deal to his credit, even if he had other instances to militate against it. I think the action of the War Office has been very fitful in this matter, and that it does not tend towards the interest of discipline as it used to be regarded in the Army.

*Mr. LAWSON WALTON (Leeds, S.): The right hon. Gentleman the Secretary for War pointed out in his speech last night that he was not influenced in his view of this case either by the social position which General Colvile occupies, or by the newspaper clamour which he told us had been raised in support of it. If that declaration was made by the right hon. Gentleman in order to assure the House of his impartiality and of his firmness the House needed no such assurance. But if the observation sprang from a feeling that a reflection could be made upon the character of this attempt to secure for General Colvile some hearing by a competent military tribunal, then I venture to ask the House to believe that those of us who are taking an interest in this subject entirely disclaim any such motive. We approach the case in no partisan sense. It involves a great public question relating to the status of military officers and the steps that ought to be taken before they are deprived of their position in His Majesty's service. So far as I am personally concerned, the issue of this discussion is a matter of indifference. Except that I have had placed in my hands some papers by my hon. friend the Member for North-West Lanark, who drew attention to the subject, and that I have had the opportunity of a general explanation from General Colvile, that officer is a complete stranger to me. What we ask the House to establish by the acceptance of the Amendment is that a military officer before he is deprived of high command shall have his conduct investigated by a competent military tribunal, before which he may be heard in his defence. The most fundamental principle of justice is that an accused person should be heard before he is condemned. There is no jurisdiction so barbarous as not to be founded on that principle; there is no system of jurisprudence which fails to be arbitrary if that principle is not observed. I think that in a very few minutes I can satisfy the House that General Colvile, an eminent officer, has been compulsorily retired without ever having had an opportunity of even hearing the materials upon which the charges against him are founded, or of offering to any competent military tribunal an answer to these imputations.

What is the case against him? It resolves itself into two charges. The first is an indictment connected with Sanna's Post; the second connected with the surrender at Lindley. The right hon. Gentleman fully appreciated the relative importance of these two accusations, and he put in the forefront the conduct of General Colvile in relation to Sanna's Post. What is the accusation? It is that General Colvile, when a short distance removed from General Broadwood, communicated with General Broadwood, who was in action with the Boers, and invited General Broadwood to neglect the immediate duties which devolved upon him in connection with the command of his troops, and travel a distance of two or three miles in order to hold a personal interview with General Colvile. The second charge is that General Colvile, instead of proceeding to capture or rescue the lost guns, withdrew his troops in another direction. The right hon. Gentleman made these charges against an officer of tried capacity, and led the House to believe that these constituted an accurate statement of facts, which had been accepted by General Colvile. Now, so far from General Colvile accepting that satement as accurate, he has all along strenuously contested all of these allegations, and therefore it is obvious, in the interests of justice and fair play, that a case has arisen for inquiry. General Colvile's argument is that, so far from having called upon General Broadwood to join him while General Broadwood was engaged in military operations, he issued that summons hours after the military operations had concluded; and that, so far from withdrawing his troops and avoiding his duty of rescuing or capturing the lost guns, he withdrew his troops in order that by a flank movement he might intercept the Boers, and so secure the guns. If that allegation is founded on fact, surely General Colvile is entitled to have his view presented for consideration before a properly constituted military tribunal.

*The SECRETARY of STATE for WAR (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford): The whole case was put by General

Colvile to Lord Roberts and considered by him before any action was taken.

*MR. LAWSON WALTON: I should like to know—and I hope the right hon. Gentleman will give us the information—in what form, where, and on what occasion General Colvile ever presented for the consideration of the present Secretary of State for War or the Commander-in-Chief the statement of his case. If the right hon. Gentleman will only bear with me for a moment, I think I will make it clear to him that the only statement ever made to Lord Roberts by General Colvile was a statement briefly made in the course of an interview of a few minutes, before any charge had been formulated against him and when there was no opportunity of framing an accusation which he might have challenged or answered. A statement was put into writing by General Colvile at a later stage, and that statement was submitted to the Army Committee at the War Office, consisting of the predecessor of the right hon. Gentleman, Lord Lansdowne, and Lord Wolseley; and that statement was considered so entirely satisfactory that they approved of General Colvile resuming his command at Gibraltar. That statement, so far from leading to censure, established General Colvile's acquittal from the charges made against him. In regard to Sanna's Post, I say that there is on the part of General Colvile a complete answer; and what is more important, until last night, Sanna's Post has never been relied on by the right hon. Gentleman in supporting the action taken against General Colvile. It has never before been put forward as a ground for this distinguished officer being removed from his command.

Let me establish that proposition. The first reference to Sanna's Post appears in the despatch which Lord Roberts wrote and sent to the War Office. In that despatch he describes General Colvile's operation of withdrawing his troops in order to intercept the Boers and guns by a flank movement as not quite an error of judgment, because the phrase used was—

> "It would have been better if General Colvile, instead of seeking to rescue the guns by a flank movement, had operated directly upon the position where the guns were, and from which the Boers were transporting them."

That is a qualified and indirect reflection on the exercise of judgment on the part of General Colvile. Later a letter was written to General Colvile, when he was at Gibraltar, explaining to him the grounds upon which—and in which the right hon. Gentleman concurred with Lord Roberts—it had been decided to withdraw him from his command. That letter was written on 16th December last, and stated that the gravamen of the case against General Colvile was in connection with the Lindley affair alone. It runs as follows:—

> "The Secretary of State having discussed by telegraph the incidents of the surrender of No. XIII. Imperial Yeomanry battalion, concurs with Lord Roberts that you were mainly responsible for the surrender, and has reluctantly come to the conclusion that you cannot be permitted to retain your command. I am directed to request you will hand in your resignation to General Sir George White on receipt of this letter, and quit Gibraltar."

If Sanna's Post was relied on on 11th December as a ground for the peremptory withdrawal of General Colvile from Gibraltar, why was it not mentioned in that letter? The right hon. Gentleman intimated last night that the history of Sanna's Post had gradually developed, and that new light had been thrown on that unfortunate affair; but as late as 21st February in the present year the Secretary of State alleged as the only ground for the measure against General Colvile the Lindley surrender. Sanna's Post was not mentioned at all. What reliance can be placed upon the case which rests mainly on General Colvile's conduct at Sanna's Post, when no inquiry on that affair has ever been held, when General Colvile has never had an opportunity of hearing the statements made to Lord Roberts in regard to it, and when no mention has been made of it until last night, and it has never been put forward as one of the reasons?

*MR. BRODRICK: The hon. and learned gentleman is speaking from a brief supplied to him by General Colvile. I am therefore surprised he does not know that there is a memorandum by General Colvile dealing with the whole question of Sanna's Post.

*MR. LAWSON WALTON: I fail to appreciate the force of the right hon. Gentleman's interposition; the only motive apparently was to indulge in a cheap sneer at my expense, which will not serve the right hon. Gentleman. The point I understand him to make is this, that with regard to the story of Sanna's Post, General Colvile has had an opportunity of clearing himself. The right hon. Gentleman gave us what he said was the story of Sanna's Post, but what was the source of inspiration from which that story came? What are the historical data upon which that version rests? They were supplied by Lord Roberts, and I have no doubt were conscientiously believed in by Lord Roberts and by the right hon. Gentleman himself; but where does Lord Roberts get these statements? He got those statements through various officers from information derived from various persons and through various channels, and General Colvile has had no opportunity of checking those statements or of cross-examining those persons who made them. Lord Roberts is put into possession of a version of these incidents through statements made behind the back of the officer involved, who has had no opportunity of giving his answer to them. Yet, when those statements are put forward, it is said that they are the result of an inquiry in which General Colvile had every opportunity given to him for defence, and therefore he is not injured in that matter, having had a full opportunity of putting his case before his judges.

Now, I shall show the House in a moment that all that has ever been produced by General Colvile was a memorandum which was sent to the War Office when his conduct was under investigation after the Sanna's Post affair and the Lindley disaster, and when that explanation was regarded as satisfactory by those who were qualified to express an opinion. Before going further, let me first touch upon the Lindley case. What was the Lindley case? It was that General Colvile failed to go back eighteen or twenty-two miles in order to rescue Yeomanry in difficulties. That, in the opinion of the right hon. Gentleman, was a most inhuman proceeding. He implied it rather than said it, because he told us of other officers who had travelled twice the distance and succeeded in rendering important service to the Yeomanry. But he did not tell the House that General Colvile did not follow their example because he was under orders to go elsewhere. The other officers were under orders to go to Lindley. General Colvile was under orders to go to Heilbron, and, according to those orders, he had to be at Heilbron the next day, and he could not go back to the rescue of the Yeomanry at Lindley without disobeying the specific orders which he had received. I do not suggest to the House that this is a matter which we can investigate, but it is a matter which should be investigated. I say that General Colvile has a case with regard to the Lindley disaster which should be tried, a case upon which a competent military tribunal should express some verdict. Now Lindley is in a different position from Sanna's Post, because, while there never was an inquiry into the affair at Sanna's Post, with regard to the Lindley disaster there were two, the one which most nearly approached a judicial inquiry being directed by the right hon. Gentleman himself. When General Colvile returned to this country from South Africa he was told that Lord Roberts had criticised his action, and was asked to furnish an explanation, which he did; but the right hon. Gentleman fails to see the distinction between an answer to an accusation framed and an explanation given by an accused person before he knows the charge made against him. General Colvile told his own version, and shortly after a despatch was received from Lord Roberts, and a Committee consisting of Lord Lansdowne, the then Secretary of State for War, and Lord Wolseley investigated the matter, and they approved of General Colvile taking up his command at Gibraltar. That took place in August. In the month of December the right hon. Gentleman succeeded Lord Lansdowne at the War Office, and Lord Roberts succeeded Lord Wolseley as Commander-in-Chief. Last night the right hon. Gentleman told us that the decision of that Committee was arrived at without the knowledge of Lord Roberts.

*MR. BRODRICK: What I said was that the committee of inquiry with regard to the Lindley disaster was brought to my knowledge by Sir Evelyn Wood, and by me referred to Lord Roberts, who had not been previously consulted.

*MR. LAWSON WALTON: But even so, supposing that the right hon. Gentleman's predecessor Lord Lansdowne and the late Commander-in-Chief had come to the conclusion that they might restore General Colvile to his command at Gibraltar without consultation with Lord Roberts, surely, if the Secretary for War for the time being and the Commander-in-Chief for the time being had investigated the circumstances of an officer's conduct and come to a decision upon it, there ought to be an end to the matter. How long was an officer to hold his command subject to the change of the political Minister at the War Office, subject to the review of a more vigorous and sweeping Secretary of State with reforms in prospect and a new Commander-in-Chief with different ideas of discipline? Without any intimation to him of any sort or kind, without any new charge being brought against him, that decision in his favour was cancelled, and he was withdrawn from the command which he had been allowed to take up. The right hon. Gentleman was quite correct when he said that a new fact came to his knowledge, namely, the report of the inquiry in South Africa with regard to the Lindley disaster. Let us assume for a moment that the court in South Africa did investigate the cause of the Lindley disaster—that investigation was behind General Colvile's back; he was not there either personally or by representation; there was no one to sift the evidence on his behalf, and no one to establish conclusions which might tell in his favour. Yet the right hon. Gentleman proceeds to act upon that report without calling the attention of General Colvile himself to it or even sending him a copy of it. The action taken by the right hon. Gentleman in this case is an action taken upon the report of an inquiry at which General Colvile was not present, and he acted upon it without asking General Colvile whether he had anything to say with regard to it. I suggest that the action of the right hon. Gentleman was absolutely unfair, and I submit that the right hon. Gentleman has failed to show any new facts in view of the decision which was arrived at by his predecessor and Lord Wolseley, who had a statement before them on which they acted, and which, so far as I know, is the only statement General Colvile has published with regard to this matter. No one can feel a higher respect for Lord Roberts than I entertain, but he is but mortal; he was not himself an eye-witness of the conduct of General Colvile either at Lindley or Sanna's Post. He only derived his impressions of these incidents from versions given by others. Lord Roberts never pretended to have conducted any independent investigation at which General Colvile had an opportunity of being heard, and therefore the fact that Lord Roberts had formed this impression upon *ex parte* statements and evidence never submitted to cross-examination was not sufficient ground for the Secretary of State for War to review the action of his predecessors in removing him—General Colvile—from his command.

The question rests, as I have said, upon this, that Sanna's Post has never been a subject of inquiry at all, and with regard to Lindley there has been no inquiry at which General Colvile has been present, or with regard to which his defence has ever been heard. Let not our view be clouded by General Colvile's unfortunate communication to the press. I am not here to approve or disapprove that action, it falls altogether outside the scope of this motion, because all the motion asks is that General Colvile's conduct in South Africa, upon which his withdrawal from South Africa was founded, should be the subject of investigation. So far as the communication to the press is concerned, though it may be blameable, there is a good deal to be said in extenuation of it. The action of the Secretary for War in regard to General Colvile's communication to the press only illustrates the arbitrary way in which the War Office acted even towards officers in high command. After that paragraph appeared in the newspapers General Colvile received a short letter from the War Office asking him whether it was published on his authority. He was not invited to offer any explanation of the circumstances which might in some degree have extenuated his conduct. He was simply asked if it was published by his authority. He replied in the affirmative, and then he was compulsorily retired, and his retiring pay permanently reduced. That may be right or it may be wrong, but before the War Office judges a man and metes out punishment to him, they ought to investigate the circumstances under which his conduct took place. As my hon. friend said, General Colvile had received the greatest possible provocation; he had received a letter from his superior in command that he must resign his command forthwith and immediately return home. After thirty years brilliant service in the Army, to be withdrawn from his command and bade return by the next mail steamer because of action in South Africa months before, after a favourable opinion had been expressed of his conduct by the War Office, was conduct calculated to provoke a man to an act which in calmer moments he would not be guilty of. One must remember, too, that General Colvile was a half-pay officer, and he was entitled to communicate with the press and sit in this House and to stump the country and point out the mode in which military matters have been or are being conducted, and I say with regard to this matter, although his defence and vindication may fail on inquiry, he ought to be allowed a hearing, and that the circumstances ought to be investigated by the War Office and receive that consideration which they appear to warrant.

So much for that part of the case which the right hon. Gentleman has made; but part of the case of the right hon. Gentleman has been abandoned. The right hon. Gentleman stated on the 21st of February that General Colville had been deprived of his command owing to inefficiency in the field. If the right hon. Gentleman meant to rely only upon the misconduct of General Colvile on the two occasions to which he referred I understand his answer, but a very large proportion of this House are under the impression that Lord Roberts was expressing a general opinion with regard to General Colvile in connection with his capacity as a commanding officer. The past record of General Colvile as regards South Africa is that he has received on four occasions the commendation of his commanding officer. First of all, at Belmont and Magersfontein. Despatches sent to Lord Wolseley by Lord Methuen both refer in complimentary terms to General Colvile; next in regard to Paardeberg and Poplar Grove, he had the commendation of Lord Roberts himself. In that campaign General Colvile was mentioned favourably by his superiors on four occasions. There were these two blots, and in regard to those he has never been heard. No materials have ever been supplied to show the grounds of this action by the War Office, and all that General Colvile asks by this motion is that he shall have the satisfaction of knowing that his case has been heard, before his career in the public service is finally ended. The right hon. Gentleman has said that this remedy is useless to General Colvile, because he would be no better off after that inquiry has been held; that, in fact, he would be in a worse position than if he was condemned unheard. That was always the view of the prosecution before the trial takes place, but it is no answer to a man who asks to be fairly tried to say so. At all events, that is a line which I hope we shall never follow in this country when a military case arises for consideration. That was the logic which influenced the French War Minister when the case of Captain Dreyfus arose, but by a British Minister of War no such argument can surely be put forward. All that General Colvile asks is that he may have the satisfaction of learning what the materials were upon which this action was taken, so that he may be able to put before the country the answer which he seeks to make to the accusation. I submit that it is a small requital for thirty years of brilliant public service to yield to an officer the small demand that his case shall be heard before his condemnation is finally recorded.

*SIR J. DICKSON-POYNDER (Wiltshire, Chippenham): In a portion of his remarks last night the right hon. Gentleman stated that he was in favour of bringing officers before courts-martial, but that if the House of Commons is not prepared to accept the decision of such distinguished officers as Lord Roberts, Lord Kitchener, and Lord Wolseley, there is very little likelihood of their accepting the views of any subordinate officers. No one has a deeper and more profound respect for the opinion of such a distinguished man as our Commander-in-Chief than myself, and in saying that I believe I am echoing the opinion of every one in this House; but at the same time I cannot help feeling with the hon. Member who has just sat down that when the case of a very distinguished general, who for the last thirty years has given distinguished services to the country, is brought before the bar of public opinion it should not be subjected to individual opinion, but should go through all the military machinery possible for the law to give. It has been clearly shown that in the case of General Colvile, judging from the view of courts-martial, there has not been a complete case presented on the side of General Colvile, and in coming to a decision like that which the Commander-in-Chief has arrived at they have come to it not through hearing evidence on both sides, but by hearing the evidence for the prosecution only.

There is no better instance of this than in the case of the Lindley disaster and Sanna's Post. It is upon the Lindley affair that General Colvile has been condemned practically to expulsion from the Army. I was not an officer in General Colvile's column, nor in the 13th Yeomanry; I was not actually on the spot when the matter occurred, but I was next door to it. I was an officer in Lord Methuen's column, which came with great, but, unfortunately, not sufficient, despatch to try to relieve Colonel Spragge's Yeomanry. From the remarks of the right hon. Gentleman last night one would have thought that Lord Methuen's column being at Kroonstadt and General Colvile's between Lindley and Heilbron, and messages being sent to both, they were each in a position to proceed, and that Lord Methuen's column did proceed, with the greatest possible despatch, to the relief of Colonel Spragge's Yeomanry at Lindley. That, however, is not the fact. The fact is that sitting at Kroonstadt as we were, after a very tedious march through the whole of the western portion of the Orange River Colony, we had not been there for more than thirty-six hours before an order came to Lord Methuen to proceed with the greatest despatch to the relief not of Colonel Spragge, but of General Colvile. The House might have supposed that General Colvile, moving aimlessly and quietly along to Heilbron, received a message that Colonel Spragge was in dire distress and yet refused to return. But the case is that General Colvile immediately he left Lindley was attacked most severely for two days by a large Boer force, so much so that a message was sent to Lord Methuen to follow the Heilbron road to assist General Colvile. Therefore, when the latter received the message from Colonel Spragge he was in an extremely difficult position himself. General Colvile and Lord Methuen were each in command of a column, but it is as well to scrutinise how those columns were composed. Lord Methuen was in command of a column of 1,200 mounted men with several guns and a brigade of infantry, while General Colvile when he left Lindley was in command of a column consisting only of a brigade of infantry and fifty mounted men, with possibly a battery of artillery and two naval guns. It is difficult for the House to appreciate the position, but anybody who has been in South Africa will bear me out that such a force as General Colvile's was altogether inadequate to go through that extremely difficult country when opposed by a large body of Boers. The artillery itself, useful and indispensable as it may be, is a great encumbrance to a general going through such country, and a force of considerably more than fifty men was needed to adequately protect the guns alone. Three days after Lord Methuen arrived at Lindley he was ordered to proceed to Heilbron, thus going through much the same country as General Colvile had traversed, but, in spite of his much larger force, Lord Methuen for two days met with severe opposition from the Boers. It was most difficult country to operate in; without an adequate supply of cavalry it would be very hard for a force to get through, and practically impossible for a brigade of infantry to attempt any turning movement against the enemy. My contention is that in the interests of a distinguished general the case is really worth sifting. General Colvile may have been wrong not to return to Lindley, but at any rate he has a very good answer for not so doing in the facts I have described. I may be presumptuous in making a remark upon a military point, but this is worth considering. Had General Colvile decided to return to Lindley, what would have happened? There were 2,000 Boers around him. The moment he attempted to retire with his inadequate force, the Boers, as we have seen in several instances, would have become much more venturesome, and he would have had the greatest possible difficulty in finding his way back. If he had succeeded in getting back, he would have found an immense force of Boers surrounding Colonel Spragge, and it is quite a question whether, with the force at his disposal, General Colvile would have been able to relieve the Yeomanry.

My only reason for rising was to bring this point before the House, because in these matters a little local colour is needed. When Lord Methuen's force arrived at Lindley and found that Colonel Spragge's column had surrendered, the general opinion was against General Colvile. But after we had proceeded to Heilbron and had the opportunity of appreciating the local incidents, circumstances, and difficult conditions under which General Colvile had laboured between Lindley and Heilbron, I am prepared to say, perhaps not the universal, but certainly the prevalent opinion in Lord Methuen's column was that General Colvile was absolutely exonerated from all blame with regard to the Lindley surrender. There is at any rate a sufficiently good case for a thorough investigation. Therefore, though it is with the greatest reluctance I have risen, recognising the public obloquy and disgrace under which a general with such a distinguished past has been placed, without, in my judgment, having had due consideration or a proper opportunity of defence, I feel under the circumstances I must associate myself with the hon. Gentleman who has moved this motion. My right hon. friend says that the practice of introducing these questions into the House of Commons may militate against the discipline of the Army. I have no such fear. I rather believe if you are to have discipline on its surest basis it must be built upon the most equitable and just foundations, and it is because I feel that, whether General Colvile is right or wrong, there has not been the fullest investigation of all the circumstances which surround this matter, and of the difficult conditions in which that general was placed, that I associate myself with the motion before the House.

Attention called to the fact that forty Members were not present. House counted, and, forty Members being found present—

COLONEL NOLAN (Galway, N.) said that when he read in the newspapers of the dismissal of General Colvile from his command at Gibraltar, he thought that he must have behaved very badly indeed, because if half-a-dozen men had been ordered to go and shoot the general it would have been a punishment but very little more severe than that of dismissing him from the Service without trial and practically without inquiry. When he read General Colvile's statement in the press he came to the opinion that he had a good deal to say for himself, but that it could not possibly be true, otherwise he would not have been dismissed. He was, therefore, greatly astonished to find on the previous evening that General Colvile had spoken within the truth, and that the only difference of opinion was as to whether he was eighteen or twenty-three miles from Lindley. The affair at Sanna's Post revealed the weak spot in the staff administration. The staff were very badly informed. The Boers were much stronger and more mobile than the staff fancied. When this country was last engaged in a big campaign—at the time of the Peninsular War—there was a Quartermaster's Department, which looked after the marching of the troops, settled the routes, and generally saw that the general's ideas were carried into effect. That Department was now practically abolished. There was a Quartermaster General, but he was little more than a commissariat officer. There was no specialised staff to look after the marching and location of the troops or the general conduct of the war, and in the absence of such a specialised staff the general staff had to discharge those duties. The Germans had such a body of officers. There had been many failures during the war in consequence of the bad condition of the staff----

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member must keep to the question of General Colvile.

COLONEL NOLAN explained that he was trying to prove that General Colvile was a victim of the bad staff. That to a certain extent was admitted, and he was attempting to relieve the members of the staff by throwing the blame on the system. At Sanna's Post the staff left the right flank in a very weak position, and that the Boers were very strong was proved by the ease with which they swept Colonel Broadwood in. That their strength was unknown to the staff was shown by the very weak force which guarded the waterworks, because the retention of the waterworks was essential to the health of Bloemfontein. From the debate of the previous evening one who had read nothing about the matter would have supposed that General Colvile was, in some indirect way, mixed up with the disaster at Sanna's Post, and had somehow lost guns, prisoners, horses, and men. The fact was that General Colvile was nowhere near the place and had nothing to do with Colonel Broadwood at the time the losses were experienced. As soon as General Colvile's troops were felt to be near, the attack on Colonel Broadwood ceased, and so far as concerned the main purpose for which General Colvile was sent out, the object was achieved. As to saving the guns, it was impossible for an infantry force to overtake fully-horsed artillery, and even if they could have caught them it would have been a matter of a very few minutes for the Boers to have destroyed the guns and left them mere masses of useless steel.

He contended that General Colvile did everything he was able to do in order to save General Broadwood at Sanna's Post, and that he exercised a proper discretion in not following an ambuscading force of Boers into a spruit in a time of tropical heat. In his judgment the staff did not do their work well on the right flank at that time; they undervalued De Wet's forces, and the staff did not like the prospect of an inquiry into the affair at Sanna's Post. Sir Evelyn Wood never alluded to Sanna's Post, and General Colvile was not dismissed for that mistake. The message which General Colvile received from Colonel Spragge at Lindley was not a very urgent message, and the Yeomanry, besides, appeared to have been summoned by a false message, which, in some way not explained, was not in cipher. Any common sense man would have ordered General Colvile to have stayed at Lindley for a day until the men rallied, and there was no common sense in leading 500 men by themselves. If Colonel Spragge's message had stated that his force was in danger of being destroyed, then General Colvile might have decided to return at all hazards to try to save him. It was said that the Yeomanry were summoned by a false message, but if so how were they summoned, and how did Colonel Spragge act on such a message? Colonel Spragge in his opinion was the man who should have gone through all this trouble, and should have been brought to a court-martial. If this were done he did not think Colonel Spragge would get out of it with honour. Why they had fastened upon General Colvile was difficult to understand. He should be very much astonished if the debate in the House did not produce a very great effect upon public opinion in favour of General Colvile, who had served the country very honestly and bravely as a general. He obeyed all his orders and saved Colonel Broadwood at Sanna's Post, and he brought his force safely through a difficult country, although he was not able on every occasion to rectify the errors of his staff.

MR. PIRIE (Aberdeen, N.) said it was the exception which generally proved the rule, and in this case the exception was the speech of the hon. Baronet, whilst the rule consisted in the impossibility of imagining a court of appeal more unfitted than the House of Commons to sit as a military tribunal. This House could not be worse constituted to form a decision upon a military question like this, and it ought not to be asked to form such a decision. Whether from the point of view of Members of this House or the Service, this was a most important and grave question, and he begged the House not to run away from the main point at issue, which was not whether General Colville was to be dismissed from the Army, but whether he was entitled to a court-martial or a court of inquiry. That was the wording of the resolution, and it was only a minor point that night as to his military conduct. He agreed with the hon. Baronet opposite, that ultimately, as a last resource for the military discipline of the Army, this House should be referred to, but before cases came before this House they should be threshed out by evidence at a military court of inquiry, and then the verdict of this House could be asked for. To say that they were in a position to debate this question from the point of view as to whether an officer was efficient or not was quite a mistake. He took the view that the Army system of such condemnation as in the present case was wrong. Every officer before dismissal was entitled to the same justice which a private soldier was entitled to, and which he had a right to demand.

During the five years he had been in the House no less than at least four cases presenting the same features as this one had come before the House. He would not recall them at any length. There was an unspeakably painful case in 1896, in which a gross crime had been condoned and an injustice had been done, and where no court of inquiry had been held, and it was brought up in the House on account of that reason, the House giving most unfortunately a distinct party vote on what was in no way a party question. The following year there was another case in connection with the disbandment of a Volunteer battalion, where had there been a court of inquiry by the military authorities the matter would never have come before the House of Commons. In the year before last he himself brought up a very painful case where an officer had been denied an inquiry, and this preyed on him so much that his mind was unhinged and the unfortunate man committed suicide. It was imperative that the House should guard itself against the repetition of such cases by insisting that in all such cases a court of inquiry or a court martial should be held. In this case the Government were shrinking from publicity, while General Colvile courted it. He would not go into the military aspect of the question, but he thought this man should have a fair trial, and his defence in vindication of his action should be heard, and more especially so in view of the condoning of General Colvile's conduct to a great extent by his reappointment to Gibraltar on his return from South Africa. He regarded the communication made to the press by General Colvile as indefensible and subversive of all military discipline. He could not be oblivious of the fact, however, that General Colvile considered himself, and legitimately so, in his opinion, to be on half-pay when he issued his statement to the press. Another palliation of that action was to be found in the unhappy precedents which were set by other British generals who had come from South Africa, and whose first object on reaching home seemed to be to let their views be known to the press. There was the case of Sir Charles Warren and of others who communicated their views to the press. In palliation also of General Colvile's action the very fact of leakage of statements regarding him from the War Office must have been very trying in his particular case, and this matter should receive strict investigation from the Secretary of State for War. A great parade of leniency had been made by the right hon. Gentleman in dealing with General Colvile, and he said he had acted out of consideration for this general and had let him down lightly. He accepted the statement, but he considered that a brave man did not want leniency but wanted justice. There was naturally a desire on the part of the House that there should be no leniency and no favour shown when they remembered the great disasters which had happened in South Africa, but all they should ask themselves was whether this man was getting fair play and justice. In granting a court of inquiry they would be adopting a severer course than the Government themselves had adopted, and yet they would be acting in accordance with the views of the Secretary for War himself, for he had already stated that he was in favour of bringing an officer before a court martial whenever it was possible. Why was it not possible in this case? He hoped the Gevernment would see that justice was done to General Colvile. The Secretary of State for War said he had no assurance that if there was a court-martial the House would accept its verdict any more than the present decision. But if the decision of the court-martial came before the House it would come with the evidence for and against it, and that was a very different thing.

MR. BRODRICK: What would happen if, after hon. Members had read the evidence, their opinion was different to that of the court-martial?

*MR. PIRIE said that in such a case the House would be in a very much better position to judge. It must be plain to everybody that after a fair trial by a court-martial, naturally the House would not differ nearly so readily with the decision of such a court as it would with the decision of one officer, no matter how highly placed. The right hon. Gentleman had said that he would not yield to favouritism or to backdoor influence. He thought this showed a loss of a sense of what was seemly and right, that the Secretary for War should think it necessary to take credit for such action as that; it was on a par with his famous statement that no high appointments for service in the field were to be made but of men of tried capacity in war; that any other system should have existed reminded one forcibly of the analogy of China, already alluded to in another place. He had also stated that if appointments in the field were undesirable for certain men, then appointments at home for the same men were also undesirable. He would remind the right hon. Gentleman it was only too well known that there were already certain appointments which had been made at home and given to generals who had left South Africa because their appointments in the field were considered undesirable, and that what was wanted in all cases was stern even-handed justice and nothing else. The Secretary for War made a very just point against his conduct being called into question, seeing that he was called upon to act on the advice of high military authority. He agreed with that view, but for this very reason he urged more strongly than ever a court-martial in this case, as such cases would constantly recur and continue coming before this House, to the detriment of discipline in the Service so long as the present system of arbitrary dismissal existed. He begged to support the Amendment of his hon. friend.

MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL (Oldham): Those who have not themselves had any actual experience of war may have some difficulty in understanding in what way the occurrence of a disaster may affect the character of a general responsible for it. I would like, so far as I may be permitted to do so, to clear that difficulty out of the way. Hon. Members asked, very naturally, why, if a certain general was removed for *this* disaster, a certain other general should not be removed for *that* disaster, and indeed why all generals should not be removed for all disasters? War is a game with a good deal of chance in it, and, from the little I have seen of it, I should say that nothing in war ever goes right except occasionally by accident. The fact of a successful or an unsuccessful action being fought does not appear to be any accurate measure of the capacity or military character of the general officer who was in command. It is quite possible that in an unsuccessful action a general may show qualities of courage and resource for which there would otherwise have been no scope. General Broadwood, for instance, was responsible for the command of the convoy at Sanna's Post. Such, however, was his bearing and conduct, and the high reputation which he had held and which he still holds in the Army, that after the disaster at Sanna's Post, General Broadwood's position was even more secure than before—he was even more trusted by his superiors and his men. On the other hand, there are general officers who have been responsible for no particular disaster, but who even in their success, or I should perhaps rather say their immunity from failure, have gained a most unenviable reputation. General officers or officers in high command in the

Army ought not to be broken merely because they are responsible for disasters, but only if those disasters throw a light on their incompetency or inefficiency. When it is known by a competent superior officer that an officer is not a good officer, though he was not responsible for any disaster, there may be good grounds for removing him from his command, or appointing him to another command.

We have listened to two very effective speeches — one from the hon. and learned Member for South Leeds, who put the legal aspect of the question as powerfully as it could be put, and the other from the hon. and gallant Member for North-West Wilts, who made a contribution to the debate which was most striking, from the fact that it came from one who had personal experience of these events. The hon. and learned Member for South Leeds has put the legal aspect of the question; but soldiers are not lawyers, and their methods will not always bear the strict scrutiny of those who have given their life to the study of the law and the study of words. So long as the House is satisfied of the motives by which military officers have been actuated, it ought not to lay too great stress on technical or legal detail which may appear to have been neglected. The substance of the charge against General Colvile is the case of Sanna's Post. There may have been occasions before Sanna's Post—I do not say there were—when the conduct of that gallant officer did not give entire satisfaction. But it is upon Sanna's Post almost entirely that the rights and the wrongs of this question stand. I venture to say that a more damning case than the one laid by the Secretary for War before the House last night, on the subject of Sanna's Post—if the representations and statements were correct — was hardly ever preferred against a general officer in this House. The hon. and learned Member for South Leeds has disputed the facts. If it came to a question of balancing the evidence, I am much inclined to pin my faith to the decision come to by Lord Roberts. As to the Lindley affair, I wrote a long time ago to the War Office giving my humble opinion, having personally collected information on the spot. If the Lindley affair had been the only case against General Colvile, that would not have been worth pressing, but it must be considered together with the affair of Sanna's Post. These affairs had a cumulative aspect which rendered them much more significant. They were complicated, difficult, and technical matters, and we must trust to the men on the spot. In this case the military expert on the spot was Lord Roberts, who has been trusted, not in vain, in the greatest crisis of our history, with the largest army we have ever sent beyond the seas.

The hon. and learned Member for South Leeds made a point against the Government, which I feel is a very legitimate and valid point. He said, if it be true that General Colvile made a fault, why was it that the official despatch, published since, did not make any reference to that fault or point out the blame he incurred? Perhaps it will not be entirely agreeable to many of my friends on this side of the House if I say that I have noticed in the last three wars in which we have been engaged a tendency among military officers—arising partly from good nature towards their comrades, partly from the dislike of public scrutiny—to hush everything up, to make everything look as fair as possible, to tell what is called the official truth, to present a version of the truth which contains about seventy-five per cent. of the actual article. So long as a force gets a victory somehow, all the ugly facts are smoothed and varnished over, rotten reputations are propped up, and officers known as incapable are allowed to hang on and linger in their commands in the hope that at the end of the war they may be shunted into private life without a scandal. On whom does the responsibility for the continuance of the system rest? When Lord Roberts went out to South Africa he struck out a new and true line. The truth, the whole truth, was to be told to the country frankly and fairly. The House will remember the publication of the Spion Kop despatches and the reception that that publication met with from hon. and right hon. Gentlemen opposite. That settled the policy of candour in military matters, for some months to come at any rate. That is why the despatches contained no incriminating matter in regard to General Colvile. General Colvile was retained in his command, but it was reduced; he was put in the second line, placed practically, if not actually, in an inferior position to a general a very long way his junior in rank—General Ian Hamilton. It was no doubt thought he would be able to get out of the matter without any scandal or disturbance arising. But at length it became impossible to keep up appearances any longer. At length the crash came. Lindley was piled on Sanna's Post, there was a stormy interview, the Ninth Division was broken up, and its commander returned to England, complimented certainly, cleared in the despatches, but ruined for ever in the field. It seems to me it does not lie in the mouths of those who attacked the Government so vehemently in respect to the publication of the Spion Kop despatches to complain that now, and since that occasion, a very judicious discretion and diplomatic reticence has been practised by the War Office and the military authorities. There is some apparent misconception as to the method of removing officers from the Army, and that is because there are two ways of doing the thing. In the first place, there is the process of a court of inquiry and court-martial, and in the second place, there is the process of selection. Suppose an officer has committeed no specific fault, but it is a matter of common knowledge that he is an incapable officer, would it be right that that officer should be given the command of a large body of troops? Surely it would be wrong to employ such an officer in time of peace if he was not thought good enough to employ in time of war. I have always been an enthusiastic advocate of selection, for I hold most strongly that the more nearly we can make our methods of promotion in the Army approximate to the methods employed by business firms, the more efficient the Army will be and the less soldiers we would have killed and captured in time of war.

Lord Roberts and the right hon. Gentleman did not care to take the responsibility of appointing an officer to a peace command when he had just been found unfit for an important command in the field of war. I understand that hon. Members opposite, including the hon. and learned Member for South Leeds, differ from that view, and think it is an improper and vicious mode of procedure. Their argument is that once General Colvile was appointed to the command in Gibraltar anything that had happened in South Africa was condoned. But what about the brigade? Were 3,000 British soldiers forming the efficient part of the garrison of our greatest Mediterranean fortress not to be considered? Had they not a right to expect to be commanded by as good an officer as those best qualified to judge could get? Of course some reasonable assurance of fixity of tenure must be given to subordinates; but the paramount principle which must be held before our eyes is that the Service exists not for the benefit of individuals, but only for the advantage and security of the State. Under the process of selection mistakes are made and, unwittingly, injustice done; but the process is at work not only in the Army, but in every branch of commerce, in every walk of life, and it is nowhere more essential and more vital to efficiency than in the military service. We have to look no further than the House of Commons to see the principle of selection working in all its glory. We know that sitting around there are Members just as able, just as conscientious, quite as intelligent, as any who now adorn the Treasury Bench, but no one would think it worth while to urge the claims of anyone who has not been preferred. Selection is the only hope for increased efficiency in the Army, it is the only way in which we can prevent the upper ranks being clogged with incapable men. The principle of selection is challenged, and would be destroyed if a Commission were appointed in this case, I have been told by a distinguished general officer that, in consequence of the outcry which has occurred, already several persons against whom it had been proposed to take steps have been screwed back into their places. In regard to the selection of officers, the House ought not to interfere in any particular instance except for grievous reason. Personally, I have no hesitation in expressing my firm support of the attitude of the Secretary of State for War, and I exhort the right hon. Gentleman, not only for the sake of the Army, but also in the interest of the House, not to budge an inch from the position he has taken up.

MR. YERBURGH (Chester) said he entirely endorsed every word which had fallen from the hon. Member for Oldham on the question of the efficiency of the Army. Every Member of the House was with him when he said that what we had to do was to secure that efficiency, and that officers should be selected from the best men in the ranks of the Army. It was not because he and his friends took any other view that they were urging this enquiry upon the Government. The point at issue was not the question of selecting proper officers, but whether they were to give a man who was charged with a specific want of efficiency in his duty on evidence which he had not had an opportunity of testing, the chance of having the evidence placed and tested before a properly constituted military tribunal. Whether a mistake had occurred or not had nothing to do with the question. He contended that more efficiency would be secured if a rule was laid down that a man who was in the position of General Colvile at this time should have an opportunity of putting his case plainly before the authorities. That in no way controverted the view of securing efficiency in the Army.

It had been said that the whole of the indictment against General Colvile rested upon Sanna's Post, which was the damaging point against General Colvile. That being so, it became necessary to deal with some detail in regard to that affair. Certain specific statements were made by the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary of State for War, to which General Colvile took exception. His right hon. friend had stated that when General Colvile arrived at Bushman's Kop at 11 o'clock the guns had not yet been moved off; that they were not removed until between 12 and 1 o'clock; that the troops with General Broadwood were still in touch with the enemy; that firing was still going on; that no effort was made to come into touch with General Broadwood; and that no steps were taken to find out what General Broadwood wished General Colvile to do. The facts of the case as stated by General Colvile were that he arrived at Bushman's Kop about 11.15 a.m.; that firing had ceased with the exception of two guns which were firing from a position held by the British troops; that when his aide-de-camp arrived at Broadwood's position he found that that General had formed up his troops; that they were out of touch with the enemy and were absolutely safe; and that, as a matter of fact, the engagement had ceased. The problem which General Colvile had to face was not that of giving assistance to General Broadwood's troops, but that of seeing whether he could secure the guns. General Colvile having arrived at Bushman's Kop, a high elevation from which he could survey the country with effect, he invited General Broadwood to come up and take a survey of the country, with the idea of securing the guns. General Broadwood did not come. General Colvile, after surveying the country from Bushman's Kop, and giving his troops refreshments, decided to move on Waterval Drift. The Secretary for War told the House last night that one of his brigadiers advised General Colvile to advance straight upon the Waterworks in order to recover the guns. But his hon. friend did not tell the House, what was stated by General Colvile, that his other brigadier, General Smith-Dorrien, gave the opinion that General Colvile was perfectly right to advance on Waterval. After he had moved on he received a heliogram from Lord Roberts stating that the enemy would be in the spruits.

*MR. BRODRICK: What was the hour at which that heliogram was sent?

MR. YERBURGH: The message was received at 3.38.

*MR. BRODRICK: Exactly four hours afterwards.

MR. YERBURGH said that was not the point—that General Colvile having arrived at Bushman's Kop, and finding the troops under General Broadwood were perfectly safe, was faced by the problem of how to recover the guns. He decided that the right way was to take the Waterval Drift, for the reason that between him and the Modder River there were two spruits to be crossed, which he believed to be occupied by the Boers, and the taking of which would have entailed serious loss on his troops.

In the other route there were no spruits to cross, and General Colvile thought that if he could cross the Modder at Waterval Drift he would be able to seize a point which would give him a commanding position. That was the decision at which he arrived, and that decision was supported by his brigadier general, Smith-Dorrien, and it was the very decision which was afterwards suggested by Lord Roberts in his heliogram.

The right hon. Gentleman had said that General Colvile had left the men he had been sent to assist without any assistance, but as a matter of fact, judging from the orders sent by the Chief of the Staff, General Colvile was not sent to assist General Broadwood at all; it was not true that, as alleged, he went "blundering about the country." In proof of this contention the hon. Member read extracts from the despatches and from a letter written by a prisoner, and said that if the cavalry had arrived as promised General Colvile would have been in a position to launch them against the enemy. Who was responsible for the disastrous delay in the arrival of the cavalry? That was a matter for inquiry, but they must not in the meantime place the blame on the head of General Colvile. If that commander had been properly supported he might have dealt a blow at the Boers, and probably have recaptured some, if not all, of the guns. General Colvile made his report to Lord Roberts, whose reply was, "You have made an excellent march, and it is rather a pity that I did not send you the day before." It was perfectly obvious that had General Colvile been sent the day before the result would have been very different. He would have arrived in ample time to assist General Broadwood. Nothing more was heard about the matter until about ten days afterwards, when General Colvile heard that Lord Roberts was very angry with him, because he was held responsible for the loss of the guns. He at once wrote to him to say he was not to believe any idle rumours, but if he had any complaint against him he should make it to him personally. For ten days after Sanna's Post no charge whatever was made against General Colvile, the soundness of whose judgment was demonstrated.

In conclusion the hon. Member said that he had put before the House various points that commended themselves to him as an outsider. So far as he could do so, he would assist his right hon. friend against any corrupt influence. He had no personal acquaintance with General Colvile until being asked to look through the Papers he did so, and, thinking General Colvile had a good case, he supported it in the public interest. With regard to Lindley there were two questions to be considered —first, whether he was right in going back at all; and second, whether he was able to go back. The second question had never been put to the House until it was brought forward by the hon. Member for the Shipley Division, who told the House that it was not possible for General Colvile to go back to the assistance of the Yeomanry. The telegram from General Colvile fully described his position, and the question was, Would he have been justified in going back? His right hon. friend said this was a small point.

*MR. BRODRICK: If I might interrupt the hon. Gentleman, I did not say it was a small point. I am afraid I must have been misheard in the gallery. What I did say was that it was more a point to be left to military men.

MR. YERBURGH said this was an illustration of the disadvantage of the discussion in the House instead of the inquiry asked for. General Colvile had received direct orders to be at certain places on certain days, and naturally supposed he was taking part in a combined movement. Was he, at the bidding of a party of Yeomanry of whom he knew nothing, to turn back and perhaps sacrifice the result of a great movement? Hon. Members were not competent to pronounce an opinion on such a question; it was a question for military judgment. The court of inquiry reported at Lindley, apparently, adversely to General Colvile, but before that court Colonel Spragge was defendant, not General Colvile; and it appeared to him that the right course to pursue when the court exculpated one man and inculpated another man was to hold another inquiry for trying the other man. But the right hon. Gentleman did not do this; he took the verdict of the court, before which the other man had no chance of appearing, the evidence of which he did not know—he took that as establishing the case. It appeared to him that the right hon. Gentleman entirely denied the right of General Colvile to establish his defence. If Colonel Spragge had the right to be heard, why not General Colvile? At the court of inquiry his hon. friend said there was the evidence of certain generals whom he named.

MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL said that he never mentioned the names of any officers who gave evidence; all he said was that Lord Roberts could have availed himself of the evidence of three distinguished general officers whom he had mentioned by name.

MR. YERBURGH said that if he had in any way misrepresented his hon. friend he apologised. What he would like to know was who were called to give evidence before the court of inquiry, and, after the speech of the hon. Member for Chippenham, whether any of the relief column of Lord Methuen were called? Who were the people who gave evidence? They did not know, General Colvile did not know, and he had no means of knowing. He had practically been tried by a court before which he had not appeared. The hon. Member asked the House to understand that he did not wish the hushing up of charges against any officer. Let the charge be openly made, and put the man on his trial. He heard the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary of State for War say the other night that he was in favour of courts-martial. He asked nothing more. Give a court-martial, and that would satisfy every shade of opinion in the House.

*MR. MUNRO FERGUSON (Leith Burghs): We have heard excellent speeches on both sides of the House, and I am reluctant to intervene in this debate. But there are one or two points to which I should like to call attention. The question of Lindley has been dealt with by the hon. Member for the Chippenham Division in a speech in which he put forward a powerful claim for the trial of General Colvile; and the question of Sanna's Post has been effectively dealt with in the speech to which we have just listened, and also in the interesting speech of the hon. Member for Oldham, in which he gave us his own experience. In reply, I should like to say we are not here engaged on a question of holding a trial upon efficiency. It is a question of holding a trial for alleged inhumanity and callousness shown by a general in the field, who is accused of not going to the relief of others when he had the opportunity of doing so. That is really the charge, and it is upon that we hold that an inquiry should take place. As to the principle of selection, there is no principle that I should adhere to more myself, but this is not a question of selection. General Colvile had been appointed to the command at Gibraltar, having been sent home from South Africa. He was reinstated there by the Commander-in-Chief. There is therefore before us no question of selection. It was for Sanna's Post, I have always heard, that General Colvile was "broke," but the inquiry into that incident has, I believe, been wholly inadequate to enable him to state his defence. It is upon that ground that I maintain a court-martial should have been held. I believe he has never yet had a fair opportunity of stating his case.

I have noticed that everyone who has spoken in the last half-dozen speeches has disclaimed any acquaintance with General Colvile. It seems to be imagined by the Secretary of State for War that hon. Members who have spoken in this case have been hounded on by "smart society" to put pressure on the War Office. I cannot say that I myself even know smart society. It is twenty years since I knew General Colvile, when we happened to be brother officers in the same regiment, and all I have seen of the case are two notices in the press—one a statement which seemed to me to bear obvious signs of being an official record of the circumstances under which General Colvile was being recalled from Gibraltar, and the other a statement by General Colvile himself. I thought General Colvile's statement unpermissible. I thought the other statement as to the reason why General Colvile had been recalled from Gibraltar showed a leakage somewhere at the War Office. It would not be difficult to trace where the leakage occurred. I think that was serious provocation to General Colvile, and he also suffered considerable provocation in the way he has been dealt with in having been tried and retried for the Lindley case. I am myself entirely against public inquiries into these personal questions. The pledge given by the Government with respect to that was much too wide. I am quite prepared to support the Government if they could, by some more successful means than they adopted the other night, get clear of their pledge. But what I do think a safeguard against public inquiry is to have that system of courts of inquiry and courts-martial which the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary of State for War so ably described the other night. A court of inquiry, which is secret, should be held first, to be followed if necessary by a court-martial. The right hon. Gentleman stated that a court-martial might be fatal to an officer, and therefore it was more humane to have a court of inquiry first. What could be more fatal to an officer than the course you have pursued with respect to General Colvile? After having two secret courts on the accused, trying him behind his back, and after refusing him a court-martial, where he could defend himself, it is unfair to tell him that he would have been less well treated if he had been tried by court-martial. We all know General Roberts's kindness of heart. I do not believe there is a kinder hearted man in the world, but to suggest that General Colvile was more likely to get off easily in the way he has been dealt with than if he had been tried by court-martial is, as I have said, an unfair assumption. These matters should be settled in the Army, by the Army, and by the Army alone. [Cheers.] Hon. and right hon. Gentlemen cheer that, although they have given no opportunity for military trial in this case. I take part in this discussion with great reluctance. I do not know that I have ever undertaken a more distasteful duty than the present one. I think, after the services Lord Roberts has rendered to the Empire at a time of the greatest emergency, there could be no more ungracious task than seeming to dispute a decision at which he has arrived. It is because I believe that I am following the path of justice in this matter that I support the plea of my hon. friend.

There is one matter to which I should like to refer for a moment, and that is the various insinuations made against General Colvile, which from my knowledge of him I do not think fair. The right hon. Gentleman last night said—

> "I will say, first, that Lord Wolseley by no means exonerated him when he allowed him to go back to Gibraltar. Lord Roberts stated that, in his opinion, on two occasions in the field General Colvile had shown a want of forwardness, of enterprise, and of sound judgment which are essential qualifications for a command. He considered that in twice leaving a body of cavalry in difficulties he set an example which, if followed, would be fatal to an army in the field. Other circumstances had come to Lord Roberts's notice in which General Colvile's relations with his subordinates and the absence of sufficient control and supervision in his command, were such as to seriously impair the confidence which troops should have in their leaders."

I have received one or two letters, which I should like to read very shortly, and if I am challenged I shall give the names of the officers by whom they were written, but I shall not mention them unless I am challenged, because I do not consider it desirable to bandy about names here. An officer who was by General Colvile's side in all his hottest engagements during the war has written to him expressing indignation at what has taken place about him in this House. He says—

> "If ever there was a libel it was in the word 'inefficiency.' I can only tell you that we and your staff had the most absolute confidence in you if it came to a tight place, and I think it will be allowed that your staff are the people to judge."

It has been said that there was cowardice on the part of General Colvile, and although my hon. friend the Member for North-West Lanarkshire asked about that matter, the charge has not been repeated here. I have heard it in every possible form, and I mention it merely because I think it has very much prejudiced General Colvile's case in the general estimation. An officer who served under General Colvile wrote that every man who had been with him under fire could testify to the absolute absurdity of the charge. Another officer who was with General Colvile at Belmont, Magersfontein, Paardeberg, and Poplar Grove, said he had never hesitated to go where the bullets were flying thickest. He wrote that no one could have been more cool under musketry fire, and he could not believe that such a base slander could be brought against a brave man. I feel entitled to read these letters. I will only repeat that General Colvile has not had a fair opportunity of defending himself. I cannot see how in a quarter of an hour's interview with Lord Roberts, although I have no doubt the case against him was tersely put, he on his part could have sufficient time to make his defence. I do not dispute for a moment the unrivalled capacity of Lord Roberts and other generals for investigating cases of this kind, but the question is whether they knew all the facts. Both as regards Lindley and Sanna's Post the decisions of the officers who judged the cases were come to on imperfect evidence. General Colvile's removal from the command at Gibraltar was, under the circumstances, wrong. If General Colvile cannot prove his case before a court-martial, let him be disgraced and let him suffer all the penalties you can put upon him. We have endeavoured to give the reasons why he should have a trial. We appeal with confidence to hon. Members. I do not believe that any lover of British fair play can be altogether deaf to this appeal. I am quite aware that this motion is not a thing to be lightly undertaken, but under the circumstances in this case it had to be done, and I therefore cordially support the motion of my hon. friend the Member for North-West Lanark.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): I can well understand that the hon. Gentleman who has just sat down and my hon. friend who has spoken on this side of the House in the same sense are animated by nothing but the desire to see what they describe as fair play being carried out in the case of General Colvile. Nothing I shall say in the course of the few remarks I shall address to the House will impugn the motives with which they have acted. I believe those motives to be wholly disinterested; and if I take a different view from that which they take, if I even go the length of saying that the policy which they advocate, if carried out, would impair the functions of this House and destroy the Army, it is not because I in the least question the excellence of their intentions or their desire in this case to see justice done, quite irrespective of persons or parties. What have we been asked to do by several hon. Gentlemen, some of them very good friends of mine on this side of the House, in the course of yesterday's and to-night's debate? We have been asked to constitute ourselves into an amateur court for the purpose of deciding on various difficult and delicate questions of fact. ["No, no."] I hear loud cries of dissent from that view. If that is not true, all I can say is that most of the speech of my hon. friend the Member for the Ince Division, the whole of the speech of the hon. Gentleman opposite, the whole of the speech of my hon. friend the Member for Chester, and the whole of the speech of my hon. friend the Member for Chippenham, though excellent speeches in themselves, were entirely beside the point, because they dealt wholly and solely with questions of strategy.

MR. LAWSON WALTON: Will the right hon. Gentleman read the notice of motion?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I hope the hon. and learned Gentleman will allow me to answer the speeches. I shall come to his speech directly. He also joined the crowd of amateur strategists, though he imported into his speech in addition the distinct flavour of the lawyer. I am now dealing with the speeches that have been made, and very excellent speeches they were. I listened with great admiration and pleasure to the speech, among others, of my hon. friend the Member for Chippenham. What was the substance of that speech, excellent though it was? He narrated admirably, as I think, his own experiences over the field of operations. His defence of General Colvile consisted in the demonstration, or attempted demonstration, that when General Colvile refused to attempt to relieve the Yeomanry at Lindley he was forced into that course by strategical and tactical considerations which showed him that, had he attempted the task, he would have attempted the impossible, with the natural result not improbably that he also would have had to surrender with his brigade in addition to the Yeomanry who ultimately underwent that disastrous fate. I am sure my hon. friend will not think that I have misinterpreted the main consideration of his speech.

*SIR J. DICKSON-POYNDER: I only brought that forward as a point for the defence, and as a case for inquiry.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Precisely; my hon. friend and I are entirely agreed. My hon. friend brings forward these strategical considerations, as other hon. Gentlemen have brought them forward, to show that there was a strong *prima facie* case which required the intervention of the House, in order that there might be a court-martial or some other form of inquiry. Is that accepted? [Hear, hear.] Very well. Then this House is to resolve itself into a grand jury on questions of strategy, in order to say whether there is—— [Cries of "Agreed."] Perhaps hon. Gentlemen will allow me to speak. This House is to resolve itself into a grand jury in order to determine whether or not the case should go to a common jury in the shape of some military court of inquiry which is to reverse or endorse, as it thinks fit, the verdict the Commander-in-Chief has come to. What does that mean? It means that this House of Commons is to be a court of supervision over all questions of promotion in the Army. There have been numberless officers superseded in the way in which General Colvile has been superseded. They have not the means he possessed of bringing their cases before the House. But if General Colvile is to have the right to occupy two nights debate in order to consider whether the Commander-in-Chief is or is not justified in the course which on his responsibility has been adopted, why is this House not to take equal cognisance of the cases of even the humblest of those men who in the ordinary course of promotion have been thought unfit for higher commands and have been superseded by those who were otherwise their juniors? I said just now of the hon. Gentleman the Member for Leeds that, in addition to the position of amateur strategist, which he had adopted in common with many other Members of the House in the course of the debate, he has added to his speech a strong flavour of the lawyer. I said that in no disparagement to the great profession to which he belongs, but in the distinct belief that the hon. Gentleman, in common with many other Members, has fallen into the extraordinary blunder of supposing that in the action taken in regard to General Colvile there is some analogy, it may be distant, but real, to the action a court of law takes when it condemns a criminal for some offence which he has committed. I think it is conclusive proof that I have not misrepresented the hon. and learned Gentleman when I say he has fallen into this legal blunder. The hon. and learned Gentleman actually suggested the Dreyfus trial as affording some parallel to the action taken by the Commander-in-Chief. What was the Dreyfus trial? Of the merits of it I do not pretend to know anything, but it was a criminal trial for a criminal offence, held before a court recognised by the law, and dealing with a man charged with a breach of trust.

MR. LAWSON WALTON: Dreyfus was tried for a purely military offence by a purely military court.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I did not say he was not tried by a military court. I said he was tried by a court recognised by the law for a crime, and the crime was treason and betrayal of confidence. I do not know whether these were the technical phrases.

MR. LAWSON WALTON: He was tried as a spy, for communicating military information to the disadvantage of his own country.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I suppose the hon. and learned Gentleman is a great authority on criminal matters. I am not. But I should have thought that to betray the secrets of your country to a foreign Power was a crime, and that a man, tried for that before a court recognised as a legal court, was tried for a crime before a court. At any rate, I am trying to make it intelligible to the House. I venture to say there is no analogy whatever, even of the most distant, remote, and shadowy kind, between trying a man either for betrayal of trust or for treason, as was the case with Captain Dreyfus, and trying a man on a specific charge like cowardice, which may well happen on certain occasions in war; and discretion must surely be vested somewhere in deciding who are competent persons for great military employment. That is the real point which the hon. Gentleman, misled by his great legal training and position, has entirely failed to see. It is not a question whether General Colvile was guilty of a crime, or could be brought before a court-martial on a specific charge. The question, and the whole question, is whether he showed himself by his action in South Africa to be an officer who ought to be placed in a position of great military responsibility in the Army of this country. And who is to judge of that? Is it to be the Commander-in-Chief, or is it to be the amateur strategists guiding this House? I think the hon. and learned Gentleman himself, certainly other hon. Gentlemen, pointed out that a case of a sort could be made out for every action that General Colvile took, either in refusing to assist the Yeomanry at Lindley, or in refusing to communicate with General Broadwood, or in refraining from action during all those critical hours after Sanna's Post. Of course. For what action in this world will not somebody be found to find an ingenious excuse if it comes to discussion?

The point, and the only point, we have to determine to-night is this: Are we the best tribunal, or the only tribunal, to discuss military appointments in this country, or ought the responsibility of judging the competence of officers to be left with those who have seen them actually at work, and who know, as only those on the spot can know, whether they have risen to the height of the great responsibility which has been entrusted to them? I should like to ask the House, Do they think that we in this country err by too great severity in our judgment of military officers in the field? Is it our practice to judge too harshly of their performances? Do we allow too little for the inevitable failure which, of course, must occur even to the best officer? Do we attach too small a value to the claims of seniority? Who will answer that series of questions and will not agree with me in saying that if we have erred in the past, if we are likely to err in the future, it is not by excessive severity, but by excessive leniency? Those responsible for the conduct of the war have been denounced in the last eighteen months for the failure of *this* general, for the incompetence of *that* general, for the folly of *this* appointment, for the unjustifiable character of the other appointment. And yet, Sir, as soon as the Commander-in-Chief ventures to touch a man who has at his command some influence with the press or with the House, a storm of indignation rises and a flood of turgid criticism is poured forth which, unless we are prepared to show that, in the words of the hon. Gentleman, it is the Army which is to judge these Army questions, will not only lead this House into an interminable series of profitless debates, but will undermine and destroy the discipline of the Army.

Are we to have an Army? That is the real question here. One of the proposals of my right hon. friend the Secretary for War, in his great speech on Friday night, was that at the head of the army corps of this country should be placed only those officers who, in the opinion of competent military judges, were officers who could lead those army corps in the field should the occasion arise. I do not know what criticisms are to be passed on my right hon. friend's scheme as a whole; I will not anticipate them, but this I say, that on that particular part of the scheme no criticism will be passed from any quarter of the House. And yet how is that scheme to have even the shadow of a hope of success if the Commander-in-Chief, after seeing an officer at work, is not to be allowed to pronounce an opinion upon that man's competence for high military office? The thing surely does not bear argument. Gentlemen who support this motion are asking for a trial in a case which is not a case for a trial at all. It is a case in which a judgment of the competence or incompetence of a man can only be reached adequately in military as in private life by an impartial examination into a multitude of details which cannot be embodied in a distinct proposition, which cannot be formulated as charges or excuses, but which, nevertheless, as we all know, are the real grounds upon which we form our estimate of a man's power or incompetence to carry out the duties entrusted to him.

Mr. YERBURGH: I desire to point out that the Lindley judgment is the result of a trial.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: My hon. friend is mistaken. I have really put the case in its true light. My hon. friend the junior Member for Oldham, in his most able speech to-night, hit the nail exactly on the head when he said that this was a question—to quote a phrase that is sometimes used and sometimes abused—of managing public affairs on business principles. As my hon. friend pointed out, what would the head of a great firm say if the promotion of a subordinate could never take place or never be refused without a formal trial—without the charges being elaborately stated with all the pomp and circumstance of a hearing in a public court? The thing is absurd. That is not the way to judge competence or incompetence. That is the way you punish faults or crimes. But there is no crime alleged against General Colvile. What is alleged against him is that he has shown himself on critical occasions incapable of carrying out the duties which we expect of British generals in high places of command; and the man who has expressed that opinion is the Commander-in-Chief. We have been told by almost every speaker on the other side that the Commander-in-Chief arrived at his judgment without having heard what General Colvile had to say. That is entirely untrue. There is not a vestige of foundation for the statement. General Colvile had every opportunity, both in writing and speech, of bringing before the Commander-in-Chief his view of the military episodes in question.

MR. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy Burghs): Was he told the charge against him?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I have already told the House there was no question of a formal charge. The only question is, Was General Colvile a proper man to be put in command at Gibraltar or not [Several HON. MEMBERS: Who put him there?]; and was he—and this point came first—a proper man to be retained in high command in South Africa? Lord Roberts, the only proper and adequate judge of military questions of this kind, having had a full opportunity of hearing General Colvile's statement, decided, in the first place, that General Colvile was not a proper officer to be retained in high command in South Africa; and, in the second place, that the interests of the British Army would not be furthered by retaining him in high command at Gibraltar.

I venture to tell the House very respectfully that we have before us to-night a decision of far wider scope and far greater import than the treatment of any general officer, be he who he may. If the House were to decide, as I do not for a moment anticipate that it will, that the Commander-in-Chief in exercising his discretion in this matter has been guilty of doing an injustice to an inferior, it would not only decide the particular case but it would lay down a permanent rule, governing our Army, that every case of promotion should be reviewed by the House. Every appointment which was not exactly in accord with seniority might be made the occasion of lengthened debate and division. I venture to tell the House that, if they come to a decision like that, the immediate result of disposing of one particular Commander-in-Chief and one particular Government, as they most certainly would dispose of them, would be the smallest and the most insignificant result of so fatal a decision, and they would for ever undermine and destroy the high discipline of the British Army.

MR. ASQUITH (Fifeshire, E.): There is one observation, and one only, in the speech to which the House has just listened, which, I think, will command universal assent, and it is this, that we are not engaged to-night in the discussion of the merits of an individual case; for as regards the bulk of us General Colvile is an absolutely unknown person, in whose fortune and fate we have no reason to take any interest whatever, and the interest which has been evoked by this debate on both sides of the House, and which is amply testified to by the crowded state of our benches, would never have been excited by a purely personal question; but it results from and is the expression of a belief that we are dealing here with a large question of administrative principle. The right hon. Gentleman—I do not know whether he has read the motion—has strangely misconceived the proposition actually submitted to the House. He has represented it as if it were a question of this House sitting in review as amateur strategists upon a decision of experts on a question of military discipline. If that were the proposition I should be the first to say—and I doubt whether there would be a dissenting voice—that no more incompetent tribunal could be selected for the review or reversal of a question of military discipline than this House. The parties are not before it, the evidence is not before it, or, at least, it is only before it in a very imperfect and incomplete state. The tribunal itself is constantly shifting. We have not the advantage of the arguments which might be presented in a complete shape by either one side or the other; and just as I have often said, and will always say, that if it were a question, for instance, of reviewing a decision of the Home Secretary in a matter of criminal justice, no tribunal could be less well equipped than this House, so I will say that, if it were a question of reviewing the decision of a military tribunal, we are absolutely incompetent to undertake the task. That is not the case here.

Let me clear away another misconception into which the right hon. Gentleman fell—namely, that the interest which has been excited about this case—the genuine, deep-seated, wide-spread interest—is the result of some kind of social influence or social pressure exercised in behalf of an officer in high command, which would not have been felt or, at least, manifested in the same degree if it had been a humble officer or a member of the rank and file. Sir, I entirely repudiate that view. I do not care who it is, whether it is a field-marshal, a general, a colonel, or a private, if the House of Commons is satisfied, if *prima facie* evidence is brought before the House of Commons, that any man in His Majesty's service, whatever be his rank, has been deprived of the opportunity of continuing to serve his country on insufficient evidence, or, what is more important, by a denial of the canons and rules of natural justice, it is the bounden and imperative duty of this House to interfere. The right hon. Gentleman asked the question, Where is the Army? Let me ask another question in return, Where is the House of Commons? This is not a personal matter—a question of General Colvile, of A, B, C, or D—it is a question whether or not in a specific case and upon specific evidence those rules which we always recognise, not as a matter of technical legal procedure but as the expression of the natural instinct of justice, have in a particular case been observed.

Let us come to the actual case which the right hon. Gentleman has dealt with. He referred to the decision of the Commander-in-Chief and the military authorities as regards the promotion or degradation or dismissal of a military officer on military grounds as not a matter with which this House would lightly or properly interfere. But what is the case before us? We have the case of a general officer—I do not lay any stress upon that—but an officer who admittedly has rendered great service to the Crown during a long and honourable career. In the course of this present war his name has been selected no less than four times by the Commander-in-Chief for special mention on the ground of distinction in the field. That officer comes home. Certain charges are brought against him, which when they are examined resolve themselves into one accusation, in respect of one single incident—namely, the incident at Lindley, because Sanna's Post is an afterthought. [Several HON. MEMBERS: No.] I say deliberately Sanna's Post is an afterthought. [Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: No.] The right hon. Gentleman says "No." I will read once more the letter from the Acting Commander-in-Chief, dated 16th December. It is addressed to an officer who had returned to this country in August, whose case had then been examined by the Secretary of State and by the Commander-in-Chief, and who, after the examination of his case by these, the only competent authorities able to pronounce on a matter of military discipline, had been formally reinstated in his command at Gibraltar. Having been at Gibraltar from September, on 16th December this letter is written to General Colvile—

> "The Secretary of State having discussed by telegraph the instance of the surrender of No. 13 Imperial Yeomanry Battalion, concurs with Lord Roberts that you were mainly responsible for the surrender, and he has reluctantly come to the conclusion that you cannot be permitted to retain your command. I am directed to request you to hand in your resignation to General Sir George White on receipt of this and to quit Gibraltar."

What does this mean? There is no allegation of general incompetence, which indeed would be sufficiently refuted by the testimony of the Commander-in-Chief;

there is no allusion to Sanna's Post. That is why I say that Sanna's Post is a pure afterthought, brought in after the event to bolster up a decision. There never was a clearer case in which, upon the authority of the War Office itself, an officer was required to send in his resignation not on general grounds, but on one single and specific ground —namely, the Lindley incident. Is that contradicted? [Several HON. MEMBERS: Yes.] The hon. Member for South Leeds in his admirable and convincing speech earlier in the evening pointed out as a reinforcement, if reinforcement were necessary—and I do not think it was—of that argument that, as lately as 21st February—less than a month ago—in this House the Secretary of State was questioned on this matter. The only incident to which he called attention and on which he based his decision was "the case brought to my notice in December last by the Acting Commander-in-Chief, Sir Evelyn Wood, on receipt of the finding of the court of inquiry into the Lindley disaster." Am I not right therefore? This is not a party question; but I appeal to the general sense of justice in the House when I say that the reversal of the decision deliberately arrived at and authoritatively pronounced by the Secretary of State and by the Commander-in-Chief in August or September last was based entirely—— [Several HON. MEMBERS: No.] I do not understand that interruption. I have read the letter of the Acting Commander-in-Chief and the answer of the Secretary of State given in the House. It was based entirely and specifically on the Lindley incident alone.

I am not an amateur strategist—I do not know anyone who is. All we have said is that the evidence brought forward is such that in any other case or in any other walk of life it would entitle a man to demand an inquiry. But here is a general officer of great distinction who has taken part in the operations in South Africa. We have had these operations presented to us in the authentic and authoritative account of the campaign since General Colville was superseded in Lord Roberts's despatches describing these events. Some reference has been made to his despatch about Sanna's Post, and I leave it out of the case; but I have read most carefully, and read with an absolutely open and unprejudiced mind—I must in view of the insinuations which have been made add my disclaimer to the many others which have been put forward—having no kind of knowledge or acquaintance with General Colvile or the persons connected with him—the account given by Lord Roberts of the incident at Lindley. It was written two months after the event. It does not contain one word of censure of General Colvile's proceedings on that occasion. The case of General Colvile is considered by the Secretary of State and the Commander-in-Chief, and all the information we may assume to be then available was brought before these authorities. He was deliberately reinstated in his command. The Secretary of State tells us that in the early days of December he receives the report of a court of inquiry, apparently a second or subsequent court of inquiry, which had been held into the Lindley disaster, and on the strength of the finding of that court; and on that and that alone, this letter is written to General Colvile at Gibraltar.

I ask the House, disregarding technicalities of procedure, to treat this matter as if it were a mere matter between the humblest civil servant and the State which employs him. Here is a man who has been acquitted, who has been reinstated, as to whom, after he has been acquitted and reinstated, a court of inquiry, held behind his back, at which he is not represented, of the evidence of which we have no knowledge whatsoever. for it has never been made public, of the charges preferred at which neither he nor we at this moment have any idea —and this man is told on the strength of the verdict of that court of inquiry that he is to be superseded, without having any opportunity whatsoever either of considering the evidence, of presenting his own case, or of submitting it to the review of any military tribunal whatever. I do not think any man would dismiss a servant on the grounds so stated. I express no opinion whatever, and have no opinion, as to whether General Colvile did or did not perform his duties as a general or an officer, either at Sanna's Post or Lindley; but I do say this—and this is really the only point that interests the House of Commons—that when a general, having performed ill or well—I care not which—his functions in the field—having been exposed to censure for the manner in which he has performed them, having had that censure carefully discussed, examined, and reviewed by the then only competent authorities in this country, has been reinstated in his post, he ought not, according to the rules of justice, the traditions of fair-play, and the practice which prevails in every department of life—social, political, or business—in this country, to have that position reversed, that acquittal set aside, and the status into which he has been put taken away from him, without at least some opportunity of answering the new charges and discussing the evidence. That, and that alone, is my view of the issue before the House. It is not a question as to General Colvile or anybody else, it is not a question of military discipline as against the jurisdiction of the House of Commons—it is a question of whether in this specific case a man who has been acquitted upon a charge —[Some HON. MEMBERS: No.]—yes, acquitted in the only way in which a man can be acquitted, because he was reinstated in a position for which he would manifestly have been unfit if that charge had been proved against him——

*MR. BRODRICK: I beg pardon; I stated last night distinctly that he was not exonerated by Lord Wolseley from the charge.

MR. ASQUITH: I suppose there was no verdict, or finding, or anything on paper—if there was, we should be very glad to see it. All we know is what Lord Wolseley did; and if General Colvile was actually responsible either for the disaster at Sanna's Post or for the surrender of the Yeomanry at Lindley—if there was even a *prima facie* case against him, he ought not to have been reinstated in his command at Gibraltar, and it is the most serious impugnment of the judgment of both Lord Wolseley and Lord Lansdowne. It is not I who am responsible for making it, but those who have succeeded them in office who make this insinuation against them. That is the simple issue before the House. It is not a question of censure or military discipline. It is a question of whether we ought to apply in the administration of the Army those principles of ordinary and natural justice to which every one of us would conform in the ordinary relations of life. For my part, having the very strongest view that this House is an unfit and incompetent tribunal to revise the decisions of our military authorities, being one of those who would never either in civil or military matters countenance for a moment the establishment of what I conceive to be an unconstitutional and revolutionary practice, and because I think that in the specific circumstances of this particular cases there is *prima facie* ground to believe that the ordinary rights of justice and fair play have been violated—for that reason only I ask the House to accept the Amendment.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.): From the very earnest but somewhat vehement speech to which we have just listened, I think it is clear that, in spite of what I thought was the lucid exposition of my right hon. friend, the right hon. Gentleman opposite does not agree as to the issue which is before the House. It is perfectly clear from his speech that we take a totally different view from him as to the matter which is now before us for decision. I was very glad to hear the right hon. Gentleman say that this was in no sense a party question. I hope that is the case, and I hope that the division may show it. But it is a case which evidently has excited the greatest possible interest in the House, and that, perhaps, is not unnatural, for what is it that is at stake? In the first place, there is the position of a general officer of considerable reputation, of high position in the British Army. It is not his character that is at stake. No charge whatever has been made against that, but it is, no doubt, his competency for high military employment —a matter to him of the most intense concern, and in connection with which there would be always a natural sympathy. But there is something else at stake. There is the character of the Government, so far as we have responsibility for what has taken place; there is the character of the Commander-in-Chief. [Several HON. MEMBERS: Which one?] Let me call the attention of the House to the language which the right hon. Gentleman has used. He said that if we support the decision of the Commander-in-Chief we are false to the principles of ordinary and natural justice to which we should all conform in our private life. He has said that the incident of Sanna's Post was brought in to bolster up a decision arrived at on different grounds. By whom does the right hon. Gentleman suggest that the incident of Sanna's Post was brought in, to use his very strong and offensive language, to bolster up a decision previously taken by the Commander-in-Chief? [AN HON. MEMBER: By Brodrick.] The right hon. Gentleman I do not think will say so; at all events, I defy him or his supporters to escape from the logical conclusion to be derived from his words. It is not my right hon. friend —who has told the House that he has acted upon an opinion given to him by the Commander-in-Chief—it is not he who brought in Sanna's Post to bolster up a decision previously arrived at, and therefore hon. Members cannot refuse to accept the fact that in this issue which is now presented to the House it is not the character of General Colvile, but it is the character of the Commander-in-Chief which is involved. The right hon. Gentleman said no one would dismiss a servant upon such evidence as has been presented in the case of General Colvile.

MR. ASQUITH: Without giving him an opportunity of being heard.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: That does not touch in the least the point that I am going to make. He was heard—but that is not the point. No one, says the right hon. Gentleman, would dismiss a servant upon such evidence without giving him an opportunity of being heard. Who dismissed him? The Commander-in-Chief. I say that throughout the speech of the right hon. Gentleman—take it from point to point—he asks the House to condemn the present Commander-in-Chief in order to exonerate General Colvile.

I only bring that forward because I want the House to see the importance of the issue. The issue is this. It is independent even of the position of the present Commander-in-Chief. The present Commander-in-Chief was appointed with the full confidence of his countrymen to his present position, and almost his first executive act is criticised and questioned in this House by hon. Gentlemen who do not like being called amateur strategists, and on a question of military discipline this House is asked to condemn the Commander-in-Chief. As I say, it is not merely a question of the position of the present Commander-in-Chief. Of course the result of such a decision as the right hon. Gentleman asks for must be evident and plain to the House; no man with any respect for himself, no Government with any respect for itself, could submit to such a resolution and continue to hold their office. That is almost a platitude, and, of course, there are Members on the other side, although this is not a party debate, who would not be at all sorry to see that result. But that is a matter of small importance compared with the question how the British Army is in future to be organised and administered. What is the position in which we stood a few days ago, before this debate was raised? Why, we were being criticised in every paper of the Opposition, and in some of our own papers, for too great leniency, for allowing men to remain in command with the lives of soldiers depending upon their action—allowing them to remain after they had shown incompetency. Incompetency is a matter of opinion, and as long as we have a Commander-in-Chief it is the opinion of the existing Commander-in-Chief, whoever he may be, that we have to accept as the final judgment. If the principle endeavoured to be established by the right hon. Gentleman were accepted by the House, it would not matter which Government was in power or who was Commander-in-Chief—there is no Commander-in-Chief and no Government under those circumstances who would dare to dismiss any officer unless they were prepared to bring against him a charge of positive crime. If cowardice were alleged, if treason were alleged, it would, no doubt, be a simple matter to bring the accused person to trial and to punish him according to his deserts. But, as I have pointed out, incompetency is not a matter which can be brought to trial. Is a court-martial to try whether General Colvile is incompetent? What is a court-martial? It is a court consisting of officers lower in rank than

Lord Roberts, Sir Evelyn Wood, and Lord Kitchener. Lord Kitchener, Lord Roberts, and Sir Evelyn Wood have pronounced their opinion that General Colvile is not capable and ought not to be again employed in high military office; and we, forsooth, are to institute a court of appeal against the highest administrators in the Army, a court of appeal of their subordinates. It seems to me it is perfectly absurd, absolutely inconsistent with all the criticism which we have previously heard from the party opposite. I agree with my right hon. friend when he said that, if the House of Commons were to pass a resolution of this kind, it would not only destroy the Government, it would not only secure the resignation of the Commander-in-Chief, but it would destroy the British Army.

Mr. DALZIEL: The speech of the right hon. Gentleman reminds me of a cartoon which was issued during the elections, called "Hiding behind Bobs." This was not a party question until the right hon. Gentleman rose to address the House, but he appealed to the supporters of the Government, and declared that if the division were against them it would settle the fate of the Government and of the Commander-in-Chief. The right hon. Gentleman has no business to make this a party question. The question before the House is not the question of Lord Roberts or of Sir Evelyn Wood. It is whether this House will grant an inquiry into the case of General Colvile. If the decision in his case be right, why are the Government shirking an inquiry? How is it that every unofficial Member who has spoken from the opposite benches has differed as to the reason why General Colvile was dismissed? The hon. Member for Oldham said that the Lindley affair was no charge at all, and that it was for Sanna's Post that General Colvile was dismissed, whereas another hon. Member said that he was dismissed because of the Lindley affair. It seems to me that there is a case for inquiry, and I have no doubt if the House were allowed to exercise its free judgment to-night that it would be in favour of the Amendment. Every soldier has a right to have the opportunity of examining the evidence on which he is convicted, and therefore I will vote for the Amendment of my hon. friend.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 262; Noes, 148. (Division List No. 60.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir A. F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arrol, Sir William
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. JoscelineFitzRoy
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balfour,Rt.Hn.A.J.(Manch'r)
Balfour,RtHnGeraldW(Leeds
Balfour, Maj. K. R. (Christch.
Banbury, Frederick George
Bartley, George C. T.
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Beach,Rt Hn SirM.H.(Bristol)
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Bullard. Sir Harry
Burns, John
Butcher, John George
Carlile, William Walter
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C.W.(Derbysh.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt Hn J. (Birm.
Chamberlain, J.Austen(Wor'r
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Cochrane, Hn. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb,SirJohnCharlesReady
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Cook, Frederick Lucas
Corbett,A.Cameron(Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cranborne, Viscount
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Cross,Herb. Shepherd(Bolton)
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davies,SirHoratioD(Chatham
Dewar,TR(T'rH'mlets,S.Geo.
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dickson, Charles Scott
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dimsdale,Sir JosephCockfield
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred D.
Dorington, Sir John Edward
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir WilliamTheodore
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Dyke,Rt.Hn.SirWilliamHart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Elliot,Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Fellowes,Hon.AilwynEdward
Fergusson,Rt.HnSirJ.(Manc'r
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald,SirRobertPenrose-
Fitzroy,HonEdwardAlgernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Gibbs,Hn.A.G.H(CityofLond.
Gibbs,Hon.Vicary(St.Albans)
Godson,SirAugustusFred'rick
Gordon,Hn J.E.(Elgin&Nairn
Gordon,MajEvans(T'rHmlets
Gore, Hon. F. S. Ormsby-
Gorst, Rt. Hod. SirJohnEldon
Goschen, Hon.GeorgeJoachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Green,WalfordD.(Wednesbr'y
Greene,SirEW(B'rySEdm'nds
Greene, HenryD.(Shrewsbury
Grenfell, William Henry
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Groves, James Grimble
Guest, Hon Ivor Churchill
Hain, Edward
Hall, Edward Marshall
Hambro, Charles Eric

Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G. (Mid'x
Hamilton, Marq. of (L'nd'nd'ry
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harris, F. Leverton (Tynem'th
Harwood, George
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanley
Heath, James (Staffords. N.W.
Helder, Augustus
Herman-Hodge, Robt. Trotter
Higginbottom, S.W.
Hoare, Edw. Brodie (Hampst'd
Hobhouse, Henry (Somerset, E.
Hope, J. F. (Shef'ld, Brightside
Hoult, Joseph
Howard, Capt. J. (Kent, Favers.
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.
Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir John H.
Kenyon, James (Lancs., Bury
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop.
Kimber, Henry
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Knowles, Lees
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawrence, William F.
Lawson, John Grant
Lecky, Rt. Hn. Wm. Edw. H.
Lee, Capt A H (Hants. Fareham)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leveson-Gower, Fredk. N. S.
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsm'th.)
Lyttleton, Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire)
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Markham, Arthur Basil
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell, Rt Hn Sir H E (Wigt'n)
Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfriessh.
Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
Milton, Viscount
Milward, Colonel Victor
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Montagu, Hon. J. Scott (Hants.)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
More, R. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morgan, Dav. J. (Walthamstow
Morrell, George Herbert
Morris, Hon. Martin H. F.
Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Myers, William Henry
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer, George Wm. (Reading)
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlingt'n
Penn, John
Percy, Earl
Pilkington, Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Richards, Henry Charles
Ridley, Hn. M. W. (Stalybridge
Ridley, S. Forde (Bethnal Green
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Rothschild, Hn. Lionel Walter
Round, James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W.
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Saunderson, Rt. Hn. Col. Edw. J
Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
Seton-Karr, Henry
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, H C (North'mb Tyneside
Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Hon Arthur (Ormskirk
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stock, James Henry
Stone, James Henry
Stroyan, John
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Tufnell, Col. Edward
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Welby, Lt.-Col. A C E (Taunton
Welby, Sir Charles G. E. (Notts.
Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wills, Sir Frederick
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
Wilson, Fred W. (Norfolk, Mid.
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Allan, William (Gateshead)
Allen, Charles P. (Glou., Stroud
Ambrose, Robert
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert H.
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bell, Richard
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, G. M. (Edinburgh)
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Clancy, John Joseph
Cogan, Denis J.
Colville, John
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Cullinan, J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Delany, William
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, James H.
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank
Elibank, Master of
Emmott, Alfred
Evans, Sir Francis H. (Maidst.
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher

Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fowler, Rt. Hn. Sir Henry
Fuller, J. M. F.
Gilhooly, James
Gladstone, RtHnHerbertJohn
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Haldane, Richard Burdon
Hammond, John
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
Healy, Timothy Michael
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Chas. H.
Holland, William Henry
Hope, John D. (Fife, West)
Horniman, Frederick John
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennedy, Patrick James
Kinloch, Sir John George S.
Kitson, Sir James
Lambert, George
Langley, Batty
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leamy, Edmund
Levy, Maurice
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Govern, T.
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Laren, Charles Benjamin
Milner, Rt. Hon. Sir Fredk. G.
Mooney, John J.
Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Col. J. P. (Galway, N.)
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipper'ry Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Partington, Oswald
Pirie, Duncan V.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Priestley, Arthur
Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, Willam (Clare)
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Roche, John
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer, RtHnCR(Northants)
Stevenson, Francis S.
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore Cook
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, F. Freeman-(Hastings
Thomas, J. A. (Glam., Gower)
Thomson, F. W. (York, W.R.)
Tomkinson, James
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Tully, Jasper
Wallace, Robert
Walton, John Lawson (Leeds, S.
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Weir, James Galloway
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wodehouse, Hn Armine (Essex
Woodhouse, Sir J T (Huddersf'd
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Charles Douglas and Mr. Gretton.

Main Question again proposed, "That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair."

It being after midnight, the debate stood adjourned.

Adjourned debate to be resumed to-morrow.

SUPPLY [28TH FEBRUARY].

Resolutions reported :—

CIVIL SERVICES SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES, 1900–1901.

CLASS I.

1. "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £5,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Houses of Parliament Buildings."

2. "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £2,500, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for Expenditure in respect of Art and Science Buildings, Great Britain."

3. "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £2,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for Expenditure in respect of Diplomatic and Consular Buildings."

4. "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £7,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Expenses of the Post Office, and Post Office Telegraph Buildings in Great Britain, including Furniture, Fuel, and sundry Miscellaneous Services."

Resolutions read a second time.

First Resolution :—

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

MR. TULLY (Leitrim, S.) referred to the various items of additional expenditure in connection with the opening of Parliament, and said that at every stage they would be resisted by Irish Catholics. He also complained that adequate explanations of the sums required for the extension of electric lighting and the additional cost of fuel had not been given by the First Commissioner of Works.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.) understood that a Committee was to be appointed for the purpose of considering how the accommodation of the House could be best used for the convenience of Members. Notwithstanding this, a sum of £1,900 was included in this Vote for alterations to the residence of the Clerk. It was very strange that such a sum should be put down, and he desired to know exactly how the amount was arrived at, how the money was to be spent, and to what purposes the residence of the late Clerk was to be put. He hoped they would have some more detailed information upon this point. The items in this Vote ought to attract the attention of British Members more than Irish Members, because at the opening of Parliament by the King the Irish Members were not anxious to go to the House of Lords. One of the principal reasons for this was that if the Irish Members had gone to the other House at the opening of Parliament they would have had their ears offended by the very uncalled-for and unnecessary observations made by His Majesty with reference to the religion to which many of them belonged. He could not emphasise too strongly what took place on that occasion, and some arrangement might have been made to ensure that the proceedings between this and the other House might have been conducted in a manner which would not have been suggestive so much of a football scrummage. The Royal Gallery should have been reserved for Members of this House, but it was occupied by a large number of ladies, who no doubt lent an additional charm to the occasion, but who were wrongfully occupying positions belonging to Members of this House. He wished also to call attention to the unsatisfactory way in which this House and the Press Gallery were ventilated. There were portions of the House where the heat was almost unbearable, and where there were draughts which were calculated to give colds to hon. Members. There was an item for furniture in connection with the opening of Parliament under which hundreds and thousands of pounds had been spent, and as a representative of the people of Ireland, who had to pay their share, he objected to this Vote *in toto*. He hoped this matter would be pressed to a division, for it was a perfectly monstrous thing that after two days and two nights of a long and exciting debate they should be asked to sit there at that late hour to transact the most important business of Parliament. The Government had not the slightest hesitation in devoting two days and two nights to discussing the case of General Colvile, but when the Irish Members attempted to devote a few hours to discussing items of expenditure which affected their constituencies they were closured.

*MR. SPEAKER: There is nothing about Irish Votes in this Estimate.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND said his point was that Votes involving the expenditure of large sums of money should not be brought on at that time of night. [Ministerial interruptions.] He supposed hon. Gentlemen opposite wanted to call in the police again, but he could assure them that their interruptions would not deter him in the slightest degree from saying whatever he was inclined to say.

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member must address himself to the Chair and confine himself to the question before the House.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND said he knew it was the proper thing to address the Chair, but when he was greeted in a disorderly fashion by hon. Gentlemen opposite he thought he was justified in appealing to the Chair to protect him. He agreed that the Vote did not apply particularly to Ireland, but he maintained that inasmuch as Irish constituencies would be called upon to pay their share of the expense of this new furniture, electric lighting, and the rest of the expenditure incurred in the opening of Parliament, they were entitled to take that opportunity of objecting to the Vote. There was one way in which the First Commissioner of Works could silence him instantly upon this matter—if he would tell him that no part of this expenditure would be asked for from Ireland he would say no more; but as long as he found that the Irish people were asked to pay any share of such money he should always object. So far as he was personally concerned, and as representing his constituents who in their direst misery had appealed time after time for help in vain, he would protest in that

House on every occasion against passing a Vote which he considered a wanton piece of extravagance. He recommended the First Commissioner of Works the next time he wanted to make preparations for a show which at the best could last but an hour, to go to a first class circus proprietor, who would do the whole thing at a fourth of the cost.

Mr. J. P. FARRELL (Longford, N.) said that if there was to be a continuation of the debate the right hon. Gentleman had himself to thank for it on account of the way in which the Estimates had been drawn up and the want of information in regard to them. The only Members of the House who were discharging a most important duty to the taxpayers of the country were those who sat on the Irish benches, who had over and again endeavoured to extract from the right hon. Gentleman some explanation of the extraordinary manner in which the Estimates were presented to the House. They objected to this Vote because they had taken no part whatever in the ceremony which attended the opening of Parliament, and because £500 of the total Vote would be levied from Ireland. That might seem to be a trifle, but they must consider the misery and poverty of Ireland under British rule. He was very much surprised that they did not get more help from independent Members in critising the proposals of the Government, who were increasing the taxation by leaps and bounds. He had taken no part in the ceremony. He had stood in the lobby when the representatives rushed past and hardly escaped injury in the scrimmage or the football match——

*Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order! There is a rule against the tedious repetition by a Member of arguments of himself or others. The hon. Member is repeating almost word for word the speeches of the hon. Members who preceded him.

Mr. J. P. FARRELL said he was not responsible for the utterances of hon. Members who preceded him. He was endeavouring in his own humble way, not perhaps so eloquently or ably as others, to express his opinion on this matter, and really he hoped he would not be out of order in giving expression to what he saw in the lobby of the unseemly rush on that occasion. He complained because the right hon. Gentleman had given them no particulars. They were asked to provide seats for ladies, which were to be paid for by poor women who lived in mud huts and who were looked upon by these ladies as Hottentots—at least they had been taught to believe that by the Prime Minister. They did not protest with bated breath and whispering humbleness, and so long as they were compelled to contribute to this Vote they were quite entitled to discuss every incident connected with that occasion. There was an item for maintenance and repairs. Really the number of doors constantly open and the number of draughts were enough to give every person constant influenza. One might as well be on the top of Croagh Patrici in county Mayo so far as protection from draughts was concerned. He hoped hon. Members would persist in asking for information until it was given.

The FIRST COMMISSIONER of WORKS (Mr. Akers Douglas, Kent, St. Augustine's): I will answer, as shortly as I can, the questions addressed to me chiefly by the hon. Gentleman the Member for East Clare, for the hon. Member who followed him practically repeated his statements. I am sure it is the desire of the House that I should reply in as few words as possible. The chief complaint of hon. Members appears to be that a large amount of money is asked for under this Vote for the expense of the opening of Parliament by the King in person. If hon. Members will look at the details of the expenditure as stated in the Estimates, they will find that only a comparatively small proportion of the money asked for in the Supplementary Estimate is for that particular service. The first item of £1,900 has nothing whatever to do with the opening of Parliament by the King in person. It is for alterations to the late residence of the Clerk of the Parliaments and improvements to ventilation of committee rooms. I would remind the hon. Member for East Clare that in 1894 a House of Commons Accommodation Committee was appointed by this House, and part of the Report of that

Committee was that when the next vacancy occurred the official residence should be taken over by Parliament, and that a certain allocation of the rooms should be made which would free a certain number of rooms to be placed at the disposal of Members. Acting on that Report, I took on myself to ask for the necessary powers to expend money for the purpose of preparing rooms in the official residence for the occupation of Ministers who naturally from their business desired to be located near this Chamber. By that means a certain number of rooms on the Terrace Front will be set free, and will be placed at the disposal of hon. Members. In reply to a question by the hon. Member for East Mayo, I at once promised to reappoint that Committee. The motion appears on the Order Paper, and the reference is wide enough to enable us to deal with the allocation of the rooms to which I have referred, and also to consider the other questions raised by the hon. Member. There is one other matter I wish to mention in reference to the late residence of the Clerk of the Parliaments. The Committee of 1894 recommended that further accommodation should be given to gentlemen of the press. They have had very scant accommodation, and we have been able to add considerably to it. I may add that I hope to be able to add more, but I am glad to think, from assurances I have received from the Press Gallery, that my efforts to promote the comfort of gentlemen of the press have not been unsuccessful.

With regard to the next item, only £300 has been necessitated by the opening of Parliament by the King in person. With reference to the item for the extension of electric lighting to the Royal Gallery, that is not for the supply of electric light on the occasion of the opening of Parliament by the King only. It is for the provision of electric light in the Royal Gallery for whatever purpose it may be used. It was not lighted with electricity before. The next item, "Additional Supply of Electric Current," has nothing to do with the opening of Parliament. It is the extra cost of the electric light used by the House during the interim session and the short meeting of Parliament in January, which could not have been foreseen when the original Estimate was drawn up. The item for furniture is a charge which will not occur again. The opening of Parliament by the Sovereign in full state had not taken place for over forty years, and a large amount of furniture had to be supplied which can be used on future occasions. With reference to the general question of the unfortunate crush which took place at the opening of Parliament, hon. Members will realise that that is a fault which cannot be placed at my door, or entirely at the door of the Government. The question whether it will be more convenient to open Parliament in Westminster Hall will, however, be referred to a Joint Committee of the two Houses. The reference is on the Paper, and it is only because hon. Members do not desire to get rid of a grievance that they will not agree to it. If hon. Members will allow the motion to pass the Joint Committee can meet and decide.

MR. TULLY: I have objected to the Committee because of the insulting references to Catholics in the King's Declaration.

MR. AKERS DOUGLAS: Hon. Members forget that the general convenience of the House would be consulted by the appointment of this Committee. I am quite sure no one would be more anxious that proper accommodation should be provided for the Members of the House of Commons on the opening of the Parliament by the Sovereign than the King himself.

MR. O'MARA (Kilkenny, S.) said he desired to thank the First Commissioner of Works for his more detailed statement. He would, however, protest against the paying away of money in connection with the opening of Parliament by the King because of the Declaration he then made. It would be remembered that when the Vote was discussed in Committee certain inquiries had been made as regarded the price paid for coal. but no satisfactory answer had yet been given on that point. He hoped that a satisfactory answer would now be given. He submitted that the average price of coal was not higher last year than in the previous year, and the matter should be more fully explained. He wished to know why Government offices generally were paying such a high price for coal? The Vote covered fourteen months——

Mr. AKERS DOUGLAS: The hon. Member is misrepresenting what I said. I said in regard to the other Votes that we were practically taking fourteen months within the year because, whereas we had hitherto paid quarterly, we are now paying pit prices in advance.

Mr. O'MARA said the explanation was quite satisfactory, and he thanked the right hon. Gentleman for it.

Mr. CREAN (Cork Co., S.E.) said that anyone of experience knew that if they spent £1,900 on alterations nine-tenths of the sum would be lost when portions of the structure were torn down in connection with the general scheme of alterations which was to be carried out. Thus a good deal of this money would be thrown away. It was in many cases to the advantage of the architect to spend as much money as possible. He held that the expenditure of the £1,900 should be postponed until the Committee which the right hon. Gentleman foreshadowed had reported. If money was spent before it was voted, the House should teach the hon. Gentlemen responsible a lesson by making them pay it out of their own pockets. It was an insult to the House to come forward at that hour in the morning [one o'clock] and ask them to vote money which had already been spent. He objected to money being voted for work which had been executed without the sanction of the House.

Mr. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.) said he had several times pressed the First Commissioners of Works to restore the crossing which had been taken away, opposite the Clock Tower.

*Mr. SPEAKER said that question did not arise on the Supplementary Estimate now before the House.

Mr. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.) said he heartily joined his colleagues on the Irish benches in objecting to the Vote of £5,000. He asked the First Commissioner of Works to give more information in regard to the different items in the Estimate. For instance, there was an item of £800 for furniture. Who was the manufacturer of the furniture, was it obtained by tender or otherwise, and was it made in this country, France, or Germany? In regard to fuel, he asked the price paid per ton, and by whom it was supplied. In July last, when coal was at the highest price, why did the right hon. Gentleman enter into a contract for six months, and then, when the price had fallen, why did he enter into a contract for only three months? It seemed to be bad housekeeping. He had received letters congratulating the Irish Members on the action they were taking there in looking after the interests of the ratepayers of Great Britain. They were not there for any pleasure. Personally he might take the liberty of thanking the Speaker for allowing him to enjoy the free breeze of the outside world during the past week.

*Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order! The question before the House is the Supplementary Vote.

Mr. FLAVIN: I did not intend to continue that question except in so far——

*Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. Member must not continue it at all. He must address himself to the Vote, or I must ask him to resume his seat.

Mr. FLAVIN: Owing to the stifling atmosphere of this Chamber——

*Mr. SPEAKER: There is no question of the atmosphere of the Chamber in this Vote.

Mr. FLAVIN said that preceding speakers had been allowed to deal with the question of the ventilation of the House.

*Mr. SPEAKER: On looking at the Vote I perceive that there is nothing in it about the ventilation of the House.

Mr. FLAVIN said the Irish Members were prepared to go into full detail in regard to the various items of the Vote unless the First Commissioner of Works made up his mind to give more information in regard to them. He was not aware that Irish contractors had been asked to supply materials for the Houses of Parliament. He thought that was unfair. Ireland received no benefit directly or indirectly under the Vote, and he therefore deemed it his duty on the first occasion given him since last Tuesday to protest against it.

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 139 ; Noes, 57. (Division List No. 61.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arrol, Sir William
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W. (Leeds
Balfour, Maj. K R (Christchurch
Beach, Rt. Hn Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Bigwood, James
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hn. St. John
Caldwell, James
Carlile, William Walter
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r
Charrington, Spencer
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Cranborne, Viscount
Davies, Sir Horatio D. (Chatham
Dickson, Charles Scott
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dorington, Sir John Edward
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Duke, Henry Edward
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Elibank, Master of
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
Fitzroy, Hon. Edward Algernon
Forster, Henry William
Godson, Sir Augustus Fred'rick
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin & Nairn
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Green, Walford D (Wednesbury
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Groves, James Grimble
Hain, Edward
Hamilton, Rt. Hn Lord G (Mid'x
Harris, F. Leverton (Tynem'th
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayne, Rt. Hon Chas. Seale-
Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanley
Heath, James (Staffords., N. W.
Helder, Augustus
Hermon-Hodge, Rbt. Trotter
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hobhouse, Henry (Somerset, E.
Hope, J. F (Sheffield, Brightside
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop
Kimber, Henry
Knowles, Lees
Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawson, John Grant
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Levy, Maurice
Long, Col Charles W. (Evesham
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Killop, James (Stirlingsh.)
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfriessh.
Middlemore, John T.
Milward, Col. Victor
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
More, Robert J. (Shropshire)
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry
Nicol, Donald Ninian
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Penn, John
Pirie, Duncan V.
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Renwick, George
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Charles T.
Robertson, H. (Hackney)
Ropner, Col. Robert
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col. Samuel A.
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.
Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, E.)
Smith, H. C. (North'mb., Tynes.
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Hon. Arthur (Ormsk.)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stock, James Henry
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thomas, J A (Glamorgn., Gower
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Tufnell, Col. Edward
Valentia, Viscount
Warde, Lt.-Col. C. E.
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset)
Willox, Sir John Archibald

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Ambrose, Robert
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Boland, John
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Clancy, John Joseph
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cullinan, J.
Delany, William
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Farrell, James Patrick
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Gilhooly, James
Hammond, John
Hayden, John Patrick
Healy, Timothy Michael
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Jordon, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Patrick James
Lambert, George
Leamy, Edmund
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Govern, T.
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
Mooney, John J.
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)

O'Brien, Kendal (Tipp'rary Mid
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Roche, John
Sullivan, Donal
Tully, Jasper
Weir, James Galloway

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Captain Donelan and Mr. Patrick O'Brien.

Second Resolution :—

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

MR. TULLY said he thought that the House was entitled to a better explanation regarding the Vote than had previously been given. The original Estimate was £6,745, and now a sum of £2,500 was asked for for fuel, light, water, and household articles. The original Estimate for the British Museum was £3,400, and now an increase of £1,450 was asked for. The original Estimate for the Edinburgh Museum was £1,345, and only an additional sum of £100 was required. How was it that the increase in the case of the British Museum was 42 per cent., whereas it was only 7 per cent. in the case of the Edinburgh Museum? It appeared to him that the cost of fuel, light, and household articles must have been as great in Edinburgh as in London. He was aware that the Scotch looked closely after the ready penny, and he thought that the small increase asked for for the Edinburgh Museum was a testimony to the thriftiness of the Scotch people. For the Natural History Museum the original Estimate was £2,000, and the Estimate now required was £2,950, or an increase of 47 per cent. He thought the House should be given some explanation of the increase, and also why, when the Supplementary Estimate for the Edinburgh Museum was only £100 it should be £2,400 for the British Museum? The House had been told that the increase was due principally to the increased price of coal, but surely Scotch coal went up in price proportionately with English coal, and if the Edinburgh authorities could get their coal at a low rate, why could not the same be done in London? The House was entitled to know the names of the contractors from whom the coal was bought, and whether any purchases were made from distinguished Members of the Houses of Parliament who were interested in the trade.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND could not understand by what course of reasoning the First Lord of the Treasury arrived at the conclusion that it was fair or reasonable that the expenditure of public money should be discussed in the early hours of the morning, while the ordinary time of the House was devoted to discussing the more or less interesting case of one officer who was unable to conquer the Boers. In this Vote there was an additional sum of £1,450 for the British Museum in respect of fuel, light, and household articles. He should oppose that and every other Vote in connection with that institution until the First Lord gave an undertaking to restore to Ireland the gold ornaments which were discovered in that country, and taken from them in a most irregular, illegal, and unfair manner, and deposited in the British Museum.

*MR. SPEAKER ruled that the question of the gold ornaments had nothing to do with the Vote before the House, and, therefore, could not be discussed.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND was about to continue his remarks, when—

MR. A. J. BALFOUR rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The House divided :—Ayes, 123; Noes, 70. (Division List No. 62.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r.
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (Leeds)
Balfour, Maj. K. R. (Christch'ch

Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol
Bigwood, James
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Carlile, William Walter
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc.
Charrington, Spencer
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow
Cranborne, Viscount
Davies, Sir Horatio D. (Chath'm
Dickson, Charles Scott
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dorington, Sir John Edward
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Duke, Henry Edward
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
Fitzroy, Hn. Edward Algernon
Forster, Henry William
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gordon, Hn J. E. (Elgin&Nairn)
Goschen, Hon. Geo. Joachim
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Green, Walford D. (Wednes'y.)
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Groves, James Grimble
Hain, Edward
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G (Mdd'x
Harris, F. Leverton (Tynem'th)
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanley
Heath, James (Staffords., N. W.
Helder, Augustus
Hermon-Hodge, Robt. Trotter
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hope, J F (Sheffield, Brightside
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop)
Kimber, Henry
Knowles, Lees
Lambert, George
Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawson, John Grant
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leveson-Gower, Fredk. N. S.
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham
Long, Rt Hn Walter (Bristol, S.)
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfriessh
Middlemore, John Throgmortn
Milward, Col. Victor
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
Murray, Chas. J. (Coventry)
Nicol, Donald Ninian
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Penn, John
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Renwick, George
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, H. C (N'rthmb. Tyneside
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Hon Arthur (Ormskirk
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stock, James Henry
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Tufnell, Col. Edward
Valentia, Viscount
Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E.
Wason, John C. (Orkney)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset)
Willox, Sir John Archibald

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N. E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Ambrose, Robert
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Boland, John
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Clancy, John Joseph
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cullinan, J.
Delany, William
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Elibank, Master of
Farrell, James Patrick
Ffrench, Peter
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Gilhooly, James
Gladstone, Rt Hn. Herbert John
Hammond, John
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Healy, Timothy Michael
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Patrick James
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leamy, Edmund
Levy, Maurice
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Govern, T.
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
Mooney, John J.
Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipp'rary Mid
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, J. P.
Pirie, Duncan V.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Roche, John
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Sinclair, Capt. Jn. (Forfarshire
Sullivan, Donal
Thomas, J. A. (Glam., Gower)
Tully, Jasper
Weir, James Galloway

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Captain Donelan and Mr. Patrick O'Brien.

Question put, accordingly, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

The House divided:—Ayes, 132; Noes, 57. (Division List No. 63.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood,Capt.SirAlex.F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arrol, Sir William
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balfour, Rt.Hn.A.J.(Manch'r
Balfour,RtHnGeraldW(Leeds
Balfour,Maj.K.R.(Christchch
Beach,Rt.Hn.SirM.H(Bristol)
Bigwood, James
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Caldwell, James
Carlile, William Walter
Cavendish,V.C.W(Derbyshire
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt.Hn.J.(Birm.
Chamberlain,JAusten(Worc'r
Charrington, Spencer
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Corbett, A.Cameron(Glasgow)
Cranborne, Viscount
Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)
Dickson, Charles Scott
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dorington, Sir John Edward
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford,SirWilliamTheodore
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Elibank, Master of
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
Fitzroy, HonEdwardAlgernon
Forster, Henry William
Gladstone,Rt. Hon.Herbert J.
Godson,SirAugustusFrederick
Gordon,Hn.J.E.(Elgin&Nairn
Goschen,Hon.George Joachim
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Green, W. D. (Wednesbury)
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Groves, James Grimble
Hain, Edward
Hamilton,RtHnLordG(Middx
Harris, F. L. (Tynemouth)
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayne,Rt.Hon. Charles Seale-
Heath,ArthurHoward(Hanley
Heath, J. (Staffords., N.W.)
Helder, Augustus
Hermon-Hodge, Robert T.
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hope,J.F.(Sheffield,Brightside
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
Kenyon-Slaney,Col.W.(Salop
Kimber, Henry
Knowles, Lees
Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawson, John Grant
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leveson-Gower,FrederickN.S.
Levy, Maurice
Long,Col.CharlesW(Evesham
Long, Rt. Hn. W. (Bristol, S.)
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft
Lucas,ReginaldJ.(Portsmo'th)
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Killop, James(Stirlingshire
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Maxwell,W.J.H(Dumfriessh.
Middlemore,Jno.Throgmorton
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
More, R. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Mowbray, Sir Robt. Gray C.
Murray,RtHnA.Graham(Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Nicol, Donald Ninian
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Penn, John
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Renwick, George
Ritchie,Rt.HonChas.Thomson
Robertson, Herbert(Hackney)
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col.SamuelAlexander
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seely,Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire
Smith, Abel H. (Hereford, E.)
Smith,HC(Northmb.Tyneside
Smith, Hon. W. F.D.(Strand)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley,Hn.Arthur(Ormskirk
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stock, James Henry
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thomas, J. A. (Glam.,Gower)
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Wm. E. Murray
Tufnell, Col. Edward
Valentia, Viscount
Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E.
Wason,JohnCathcart(Orkney
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Willox, Sir John Archibald

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William(Cork,N.E.
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Ambrose, Robert
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Boland, John
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Clancy, John Joseph
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cullinan, J.
Delany, William
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Farrell, James Patrick
Ffrench, Peter
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Gilhooly, James
Hammond, John
Hayden, John Patrick
Healy, Timothy Michael
Hope, John D. (Fife, West)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Patrick James
Leamy, Edmund
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Govern, T.
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
Mooney, John J.
Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan,Col.JohnP.(Galway,N).
Nolan,Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien,Kendal(TipperaryMid
O'Connor, Jas. (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Pirie, Duncan V.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Reddy, M.
Redmond, JohnE.(Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Roche, John
Sullivan, Donal
Tully, Jasper
Weir, James Galloway

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Captain Donelan and Mr. Patrick O'Brien.

Further Consideration of the Third and Fourth Resolutions deferred till Thursday.

Motion made, and Question, "That this House do now adjourn"—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour*)—put, and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at five minutes before Two of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Wednesday, 13*th March*, 1901.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

METROPOLITAN ELECTRIC SUPPLY BILL.

WEST SURREY WATER BILL.

Read a second time, and committed.

STANDING ORDERS.

Resolution reported from the Committee, "That, in the case of the Scarborough Electric Tramways Petition, the Standing Orders ought not to be dispensed with."

Report to lie upon the Table.

PETITIONS.

BEER BILL.

Petitions in favour, from North Oxfordshire; Charlbury; and West Lindsey; to lie upon the Table.

COLVILE, MAJOR GENERAL SIR HENRY.

Petition from South Derbyshire, for inquiry into his case; to lie upon the Table.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (HIGHER GRADE AND EVENING CONTINUATION SCHOOLS).

Petitions for alteration of Law, from Gloucester; West Hartlepool; Edmonton; Swindon; and Kidderminster; to lie upon the Table.

POOR LAW OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1896.

Petitions for alteration of Law, from Edmonton; and Newton-in-Makerfield; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Farnworth; Leeds; Wetherby; Wimborne; Sheffield (twelve); Herne Hill; North Kensington; Dunoon; Notting Hill; Pontypool; Southampton; Liverpool; Congregational Union of Scotland; Colne (seven); Saundersfoot; Willenhall; Middon; Amble; Nottingham; Blaenavon; Shotts; Buckhaven; Edinburgh; Allenby; Plaistow; London; Motherwell; York (three); Chelmsford; Aberdeen; West Kent; Dunscore; Sidcup; Hartlepool; Caistor; Walthamstow; Camelon; Grangemouth; Watford; Rotherham; Greasbro'; Barrow-in-Furness; and Whitehaven; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Ellon; Greenock (three); Blair Athol; Broughty Ferry; Kilbarchan; Forfar; Methlick; Moffat; Leslie; and Dunscore; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

NAVY (VICTUALLING YARD MANUFACTURING ACCOUNTS 1899-1900).

Annual Accounts presented, of the Cost of Manufacturing, Provisions, Victualling Stores, etc., at the Home Victualling Yards and Malta Yard for 1899-1900, etc., with the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 82.]

REFORMATORY AND INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS (GREAT BRITAIN).

Copy presented, of Forty-fourth Report of His Majesty's Inspector of Reformatory and Industrial Schools for 1900. Part I. List of Schools and Detailed Reports [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

PAPER LAID UPON THE TABLE BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE.

St. Cross Hospital, Winchester.—Return relative thereto [ordered 11th March; *Sir Walter Foster*].

CONGESTED DISTRICTS (IRELAND) BILL.

[Second Reading.]

Order for Second Reading read.

MR. FLYNN (Cork Co., N.): Mr. Speaker, the Bill which I have the honour to introduce is not in the strict sense a party Bill, nor is it a purely political measure, because it is asked for and demanded by the overwhelming bulk of the Irish people. We might reasonably expect for this measure support from all sides of the House, seeing that its main

An Asterisk (*) *at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.*

object and aim is to improve the condition of a people temperate, thrifty, industrious, and moral, who have been reduced to an appalling condition of poverty, verging on starvation, by circumstances of an artificial character, and in the main the results of the inhuman methods adopted in the past. The Bill refers to what are called the Congested Districts, and is to deal with a condition of things caused by historical crises which inflicted immense grievances on the people of the nation, who were driven from the good land to the bogs and barren rock. History furnishes only too many examples of the inhuman methods by which this was done, but I will only refer to two. In the county of Galway we have an instance of a man named Pollock, who purchased 20,000 acres, and the 12,000 human beings living upon that property he looked upon as encumbrances, and drove them out without mercy. Solvency was no safeguard; those who could pay were driven off with those who could not, and their homes were rased to the ground to make way for sheep. [The hon. Member also cited a similar case in county Donegal.] The historical crises and acts of landlords such as those to which I have referred have brought about a condition of things appalling in the extreme. In introducing this Bill I have no desire to criticise or find fault with the administration of the present Congested Districts Board; I shall confine myself entirely to explaining the scope of the Bill and the need of legislation.

In the first place, this Bill proposes to extend the area of the congested districts, to enlarge the jurisdiction of the Board, to make the Board more representative of the people, and to arm it with powers of compulsory purchase. We do not intend to interfere with the duties of the Congested Districts Board in the useful work in which they are engaged, except that we desire to see, if the Government is sufficiently generous to endow it with the necessary money, a Congested Districts Board sufficiently large to carry out wider functions. The first clause of the Bill gives power to the Lord Lieutenant, on the recommendation of the county council, to declare a county or part of a county a congested district, and it repeals Subsections 1 and 2 of Section 36 of the Purchase of Land (Ireland) Act, 1891, because they would be unnecessary on the passing of this Bill. The second clause provides for an elective element on the Board. The Board at present is large and numerous enough, but it is entirely nominated by the Lord Lieutenant, and it contains no representative of the people; and now that we have under the new Local Government Act county councils in active operation, and local self-government has had some trial in Ireland, and has been found on the whole to work very successfully, we think we should have some representation on this Board. The men elected by the districts would be men of some business ability, and would know the needs of the particular districts which they represented far better than the nominated members of the Board. From West Cork, Kerry, and many parts of those districts which are said to be congested, complaints are coming in that their claims are neglected, and that they do not get a fair share of the operation of this Board. And there is another reason also for an elective representation. Of the £74,000 which is the annual income of the Board at present, between two-thirds and three-fourths is derived from an Irish source, it comes from an Irish fund and is Irish money, and therefore Irishmen should have some voice in its expenditure. Enlargements of the holdings of the tenants is, of course, one of the most important functions of the Congested Districts Board. I find from the Reports of the Board examples of estates that have been purchased, which must convince the House and the country that in order to bring about any improvement at all in the condition of these people, anything resembling agricultural prosperity, there must be an enlargement of the small holdings in the congested districts. On one acreage of 460 acres there are no less than ninety-five tenants, and at the same time an adjoining grazing tenant had a holding of 350 acres. All over these districts there are large numbers of people huddled together, trying to wrest a livelihood from bog and rock, whilst in the immediate vicinity there are large blocks of rich grazing land, on which the people look with a hungry eye, and which if divided up among the people would give these people some degree of prosperity, and enable them to live in some degree of comfort.

Another clause — and this is perhaps the crux of the Bill — is the arming the Board with compulsory powers, and it is to be regretted that the hon. and learned Member for East Down, who on a former occasion gave his consent to such a proposition, should now find it consistent with his public duty to oppose this Bill. The Board have on more than one occasion in their Reports expressed themselves in favour of compulsory powers, and they embodied that in a resolution which they sent to the Lord Lieutenant. In their Report of 1894 they said—

> "During the months now under review we have made inquiries as to various estates advertised or offered for sale, and subsequently negotiations were entered into for the purchase of the lands. . . It may, however, be stated that we have not so far been able to obtain any of these estates at a price sufficiently low to enable us to carry out a scheme for migration or enlargement of holdings, without incurring a risk of heavy loss to our funds."

And in 1895 they said—

> "There is a probability that the Board may become purchasers of one or more of these estates, but additional funds and enlarged powers are desirable if anything is to be done on a large scale towards giving effect to what may be generally called the migration clauses of the Congested Districts Act,"

and they adopted the following resolution—

> "That the Congested Districts Board is in possession, through their inspectors, that there are large tracts of land that could be used to enlarge the holdings of small occupiers and promote schemes of migration in congested districts. The Board are, however, of opinion that it will be impossible for them to give due effect to this important part of their work unless more funds are placed at their disposal, and compulsory powers given to them to acquire such lands at their just value."

There is nothing of the Irish agitation about that; it is a Report arrived at after due consideration of all the facts of the case by the Congested Districts Board. Later on they follow that up by a Report in language not quite so emphatic, but equally strong, for they say in their Report of 1896—

> "Further, we are conducting negotiations for the purchase of some other estates, but the extent to which we can buy is affected not only by the amount of money at our disposal for the carrying out of the re-applotment and improvement of holdings, but also by the readiness of owners of property to meet our views on reasonable terms."

And in 1899 they say—

> "Of course, in those cases where we have purchased additional land—a grazing farm, for example—and are thus enabled to considerably increase the size of all the old holdings, it is a comparatively easy matter to satisfy the tenants, but where—and this must occur in many cases—very little land can be added to the existing holdings the problem becomes a difficult one."

Now I claim the Chief Secretary as a supporter of this clause, because he has said, in connection with compulsory purchase for all Ireland, that the League had plagiarised the policy of the Tory party. Well, if it was for the good of Ireland we do not care who was the author of the policy, and we will not dispute with him whether the League plagiarised the policy of the Government or whether the Government plagiarised the policy of the League. So long as we are agreed that it is desirable there need be no controversy; but we do claim the Chief Secretary as an advocate and warm friend of the clause for compulsory purchase, at all events in these congested districts. In many parts of the west of Ireland there are large grazing holdings contiguous to these small plots. Many of them are holdings on eleven months tenancy, and surely, when the eleven months comes to an end, the landlord has full and free possession, and there can be no difficulty in purchasing large numbers of them; and when the landlord is unreasonable it is surely desirable that compulsory powers should be exercised just as they are put in force in municipalities.

This question is not so very difficult as it seems, and can be settled if grappled with by statesmen in a comprehensive manner. It is an urgent question. I do not know whether there could be any sight more depressing than to drive through these congested districts and to see large tracts of rich, fertile land covered with sheep and cattle, while the peasants are compelled to eke out an existence on the rocky, barren mountains or in the bogs and swamps. I trust the Government will give a sympathetic answer. This is not a party question, and I appeal to the House to pass the Second Reading of the Bill.

DR. AMBROSE (Mayo, W.) said as one who had taken a very special interest in this question he rose with great pleasure to second the motion for the Second Reading of this Bill. He should like to explain, for the benefit of hon. Members who did not understand, what a congested district was. The population of the congested districts amounted to 549,516, and the area in statute acres was 3,700,000. A congested district was one where more than 20 per cent. of the population of an electoral division of a county lived in a locality the rateable value of which was less than 30s. per head of the population. The rateable value per head of the population of the congested districts was as follows. In Mayo it was only 18s. 3d., and in one part of the county it was only 14s. 10d. In Galway the rateable value was 17s. 10d., and in one electoral division it was as low as 7s. 10½d. In Donegal the rateable value was 18s.; in Leitrim, £1 6s. 8d.; in Sligo, £1 5s. 5d.; in Roscommon, £1 2s. 9d.; in Kerry, £1 1s. 7d., and in one district it was only 6s. 9½d.; in Cork, £1 3s. 7d. In other words, the highest valuation was £1 6s. 8d. Now, what was the lowest valuation in England? He put a question to the President of the Board of Agriculture the other day upon this subject, and he was told that the lowest valuation in England per head was £2 1s. 6d. The number of agricultural holdings in Mayo was 33,218, of which half were under £4 rateable value, and the mean valuation of which was £8. In Galway there are 32,108 holdings, of which 14,189 were under £4 valuation, and with a mean valuation of £13. In Donegal there were 28,595 holdings, 14,568 under £4 valuation, and the mean valuation of which was £9. In Leitrim there were 13,314 agricultural holdings, of which 3,638 were under £4 valuation, and the mean valuation of which was £9. How were these poor farmers, who were really only agricultural labourers, to compete with Canada, the Argentine, and Denmark, especially as produce could be brought to the London market from these countries at a cheaper rate than from Connaught? He claimed in support of this Bill the hon. and gallant Member for North Armagh, who told him, when he introduced this Bill as a private Member's Bill in 1897, that if he could persuade his friend the late Colonel Waring to accept compulsory purchase he (Colonel Saunderson) would gladly support it. He also claimed the support of the hon. Member for East Down, who backed his (Dr. Ambrose's) Bill in 1897. And he claimed the support of the present Solicitor General for England, from whom he had a letter in his possession in which he said that, while heartily approving of the Bill of 1897, he regretted that he could not persuade the late Colonel Waring to accept compulsory purchase, and that, being the landlords' advocate, he was sorry he could not support it on that account.

It might be asked why did the promoters of this Bill ask for a compulsory purchase clause? They asked for it for the purpose of relieving the perennial distress of the congested districts. They might be told there was no perennial distress. Well, they had it on the authority of the late Chief Secretary that the people of the west of Ireland live in a state of chronic starvation. Without touching upon the famine of 1846–7, the question of distress was brought before the House from 1831 to 1898 in twenty-seven different years. And in nearly all cases was it confined to the seaboard counties. We had a famine in 1879–80, and the amount spent on the relief of such famine in 1880 from such sources as the Duchess of Marlborough's fund, the Dublin Mansion House fund, the American and Canadian fund, and the Land League funds was over £624,000. And the following Acts were recently passed by this House for the relief of distress: (1) The Relief of Distress (Ireland) Act, 1880, under which £750,000 were borrowed from the Irish Church Fund for the relief of distress; (2) The Relief of Distress (Ireland) Amendment Act, 1880, under which the sum of £1,500,000 was borrowed from the Irish Church Fund for the same purpose, the £750,000 not being sufficient; (3) the Seed Supply (Ireland) Act, 1880, to enable boards of guardians to borrow money to supply seed potatoes and seed oats to needy tenants; (4) the Relief of Distressed Unions (Ireland) Act, 1883, which consisted in borrowing not more than £50,000 from the Land Commission for the purpose of relieving distress; (5) and, finally, there was Mr. Gerald Balfour's Relief Act of 1898. The Government had tried their hands at emigration, and although it might have been thought that a wise Minister would have considered it more profitable to pass Acts to prevent emigration, Acts were passed in this House to assist emigration from Ireland in the following years:—1838, 1847, 1849, 1882, 1883, and 1898.

Another reason why they asked for compulsory purchase was because the Congested Districts Board passed resolutions in 1895, 1897, and in 1898 asking for compulsory powers in order the more speedily to enable them to enlarge the holdings in the congested districts. He would like to give the House an idea of the receipts and expenditure of some typical families living in congested districts as taken from the Congested Districts Board Report :—

I.

Receipts and expenditure of a family in comparatively good circumstances, the receipts being derived from agriculture and fishing—

Receipts.	Expenditure.
£48 3s. 4d.	£37 2s. 0d.

Home produce consumed by family is valued at about £10, leaving about £1 1s. 4d. for old age—

II.

Receipts and expenditure of a family in very poor circumstances, the receipts being derived from agriculture and fishing—

Receipts.	Expenditure.
£9 16 0d.	£10 19s. 0d.

Home produce consumed by the family is valued at £12 to £17, leaving nothing for old age.

III.

Receipts and expenditure of a family in ordinary circumstances, the receipts being derived from agriculture, fishing, and home industries—

Receipts.	Expenditure.
£27 4s. 4d.	£30 9s. 1d.

Home produce consumed by the family valued at £5 10s. to £10, leaving nothing for old age.

IV.

Receipts and expenditure of a family in ordinary circumstances, the receipts being derived from agriculture, migratory labour, and home industries—

Receipts.	Expenditure.
£41 0s. 0d.	£42 15s. 0d.

Home produce consumed by the family valued at £12 to £20, leaving nothing for old age.

V.

Receipts and expenditure of a family in ordinary circumstances, the receipts being derived from agriculture and from earnings as migratory labourers—

Receipts.	Expenditure.
£33 14s. 0d.	£32 11s. 0d.

Home produce consumed by the family valued at about £15, leaving nothing for old age.

VI.

Receipts and expenditure of a family in poor circumstances, the receipts being derived from agriculture and from earnings as migratory labourers—

Receipts.	Expenditure.
£17 10s. 0d.	£17 8s. 6d.

Home produce consumed by the family valued at about £15, leaving nothing for old age.

VII.

Receipts and expenditure of a family in ordinary circumstances, the receipts being derived from agriculture and home industries—

Receipts.	Expenditure.
£38 19s. 6d.	£41 0s. 5d.

Home produce consumed by the family, valued at about £10, leaving no provision for old age.

VIII.

Receipts and expenditure of a family in ordinary circumstances, the receipts being derived altogether from agriculture—

Receipts.	Expenditure.
£32 0s. 0d.	£29 2s. 6d.

Home produce consumed by the family valued at about £12, leaving nothing for old age.

IX.

Receipts and expenditure of a family in the poorest possible circumstances, the receipts being derived from agriculture and labour in the locality—

Receipts.	Expenditure.
£8 3s. 0d.	£11 9s. 0d.

Home produce consumed by the family valued at about £6, leaving no provision for old age.

Now, he should like to show why the whole of the province of Connaught should be scheduled as a congested district. The poor law valuation per head of the population for the whole province was £1 18s. 4d., only slightly in excess of the 38s. per head limit. Therefore, he maintained that the whole province of Connaught ought to be scheduled as a congested district. But, in addition, he gave the following reasons, as showing the extreme poverty of Connaught, in support of his argument that the whole province is entitled to be scheduled as a congested district.

The population of Connaught in 1898 was 724,774, and the average number of persons daily in the workhouse was 4,107; that is to say, that one in 176 of the population of the province was an inmate of the workhouse every day during the year 1898. The number of persons relieved during the year ended 29th September, 1898, indoor, was 36,545, and outdoor, 49,735, making a total of 86,280. In other words, one-eighth of the population of Connaught were in receipt of outdoor relief in 1898.

Now, it might be asked how these people in the congested districts lived. He would tell the House. They lived on the money sent them by their children from America and Australia. He would give one further reason in support of the claim for compulsory purchase powers by quoting the words of a man whose name would carry weight, he felt sure, in this House. Here were his words :—

> "I must say from all accounts and from my own observation that the state of our fellow-countrymen in these parts of Ireland is worse than that of any other people in the world—let alone Europe. I believe that these people are made as we are; that they are patient beyond belief; but, at the same time, broken-spirited and desperate, living on the verge of starvation in places in which we would not keep our cattle. The Bulgarians, Anatolians, Chinese, and Indians are better off than many of them are. I am not well off; but I would offer Lord So-and-so or his agent £1,000 if either of them would live one week in one of these poor devils' places, and feed as these poor people do."

These are the words of the late General Gordon. For all these reasons, therefore, he trusted the Government would look favourably on this Bill. They had a golden opportunity now. He asked the House to send to the relatives and friends in the west of Ireland of the Irish soldiers who fell in South Africa, and whose bones are now bleaching on the veldt, a message that the dawn of the new century should not be without hope for them, but should on the contrary be the harbinger of better and brighter days.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

*MR. MACARTNEY (Antrim, S.) said he was certain that every member of the House, no matter on which side he sat, would cordially agree with the hon. Gentleman who had just sat down that any proposals of the character which were embodied in the Bill or which dealt with the general question of relief of distress in the west or any other part of Ireland, ought to receive the sympathetic attention of the House, and though he was unable on the present occasion to give his assent to this Bill, it was not because either he himself or anybody else on the Ministerial side of the House had previously turned a deaf ear or given unwilling aid to the proposals which had been passed in Parliament for the purpose of relieving such distress as existed. His objection to the Bill was that it practically upset the whole of the machinery which was created by his right hon. friend the First Lord of the Treasury for the purpose of carrying out his projects for the relief of the congested districts. He believed himself that the benefit which was due to the creation of the Congested Districts Board had principally flowed because the administration had been in the hands of a Board which was not elective. He dared say that that was not a very popular view to put before the House of Commons, but it must be recollected that the Board was in the position of a trustee administering a large sum of money given to it by the nation for the purpose of relieving distress in certain districts in Ireland. There was hardly one of these districts which did not look upon itself as being in a more distressful condition than the others. There was hardly one district in which the Board operated in any of the counties—Kerry, Mayo, Galway—in which the inhabitants would not like to see the whole of the £74,000 spent in their own particular district. There was no doubt that all sorts of plans for spending money which the Congested Districts Board had at its disposal had been brought before the Board, and, if the Board had been elected by the popular voice, as suggested by the Bill, he very much feared that many unsound projects would have been encouraged. A large proportion of the public money administered by the Board would have been administered in a way which would not have relieved the real necessities of the case, which would not have made any substantial foundation for the future of agriculture, and which would have been thrown away in obedience to the demands made by the popular voice, which, after all, looked for the immediate expenditure of public money as the best way to meet the duties of the moment, without any regard to whether the objects upon which that public money was spent were of a beneficial character. He thought the First Lord of the Treasury was quite right in narrowing the number of persons composing the Board to the smallest possible dimensions. There naturally had been complaints from various parts of the congested districts that their wants had not been attended to. But he did not think that any criticism which had been directed against the general work of the Board had been based on any sound foundation. The last Report of the Board showed that its annual expenditure had risen from £41,000 to £66,000, and he believed that in the near future it would have an income of something like £74,000 to administer. The Bill proposed to introduce an elective element, to be composed of representatives of the county councils within the extended area of the Congested Districts Board. They did not know that the representatives of the county councils would have any special knowledge of the work to be done, or any very great administrative capacity. [AN HON. MEMBER: How do you know? Name one.] He might name the county council of Mayo as one which had not shown particular ability in regard to agricultural matters.

AN HON. MEMBER: They will do better than the grand juries, at any rate.

MR. JOHN O'DONNELL (Mayo, S.): I rise to order. I am bound to say that the Local Government Board have given the Mayo County Council an excellent testimonial.

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! That is not a point of order.

*MR. MACARTNEY said he did not propose to go into any particular cases, but what he wanted to do was to lay down the general principle that when they had what was practically a large public trust to be administered, involving an expenditure of £75,000 yearly, with work to be carried on in different localities, it was clear that the work would be much better done and the proposals considered in a far more impartial spirit by a Board which had little local connection and was subject to no local influence. For the House to alter the character impressed on the Congested Districts Board by the First Lord of the Treasury when he created it—a character which had enabled it to carry on its work with very considerable success—would be one of the most mischievous actions ever proposed by any legislature with regard to a body intended to permanently benefit the Irish congested districts. There was one other provision of the Bill to which he had a strong objection and that was, the proposed extension of the congested districts area. No figures had been put before the House to justify the inclusion of counties like Sligo, Roscommon, and Donegal. Was it not perfectly absurd to include the whole of such a county as Donegal?

MR. FLYNN: We leave it to the discretion of the Lord Lieutenant, acting on the recommendation of the county council.

*MR. MACARTNEY said there was nothing about discretion in that part of the Bill. It certainly did say that the Lord Lieutenant might, if he desired, include certain other counties, and personally he had no objection to the Lord Lieutenant doing so, on the advice of the Congested Districts Board. But his point was that the proposal to at once schedule Donegal and Roscommon in the congested districts area materially weakened the arguments which had been advanced in support of the Bill.

Another great objection he had to the measure was that it increased the powers given under the Act of 1896 to the Land Commission to advance money for the purchase of holdings. As he understood it, this Bill would enable the Congested Districts Board to swallow up every farthing of money now provided for the purchase of holdings generally in Ireland, and to apply it solely to purchases in the scheduled counties. As a representative of Ulster he had the strongest objection to the attempt to secure the whole of the money for the purchase of land in certain districts in the west, and nothing would induce him to give his consent to a Bill containing such a provision. He trusted that the House would not permit the Land Purchase Fund thus to be dealt with by a side wind. Until they heard what the proposals of the Government were for increasing the sum now set free for land purchase, he, for one, could not consent to a Bill of that description passing the House. The sum which had been already spent on land purchase in the congested districts up to the last year was something like £300,000. The Congested Districts Board had dealt with some six or seven estates, and he trusted that the difficulties which had recently arisen in connection with the purchase of the Dillon estate would soon disappear. But it seemed to him that very great risk would be run if the Congested District Board, as reconstructed by the Bill, were placed in a position to carry out compulsory purchase all over the eight counties named in the schedule, and were endowed with the power of applying all the money now in the hands of the Land Purchase Commissioners for that purpose. They knew very well that there were authorities in the west of Ireland who had taken upon themselves the responsibility of openly declaring that at any time it suited their purpose, for political reasons, they would not only encourage, but would actually advise the purchasing tenants to repudiate their liability. [Cries of "No, no."] Well, it was on record. [Cries of "Name."] The hon. Member for East Mayo had said as much in that House.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): I do not think that the right hon. Gentleman should make that statement without quoting the words. I believe they are quite different from those he now uses. The hon. Member for East Mayo is not present, and it is not fair that words should be quoted in this loose way.

*MR. MACARTNEY said he did not wish to press unfairly upon any Member not in the House. Had he thought there was any doubt on the point, he would have provided himself with a volume of *Hansard*. Still, he was only giving the effect of the hon. Member's words on his own mind, and he certainly was under the impression that in the Second Reading debate on the Land Purchase Bill of 1891 the hon. Member for East Mayo indicated that it was quite within his power and discretion, if he chose at any time, to advise the purchasing tenants to repudiate their liability. His argument was, "How could the British Government hope to recover instalments against the will of a united body of occupiers of land?" He certainly could not see that any arguments had been advanced to justify the proposed inroad upon the money provided by Parliament for land purchase in Ireland generally. Up to the present sufficient funds had been placed at the disposal of the Congested Districts Board for the purpose of carrying out what was, after all, an experimental system of land purchase. The system adopted by the Board differed in many respects from land purchase in other parts of Ireland, because the Board had been empowed not only to buy estates from landlords and re-sell them to the tenants, but also to devote considerable sums of money to improving the condition of the property, and to assist the purchasing tenants. These tenants consequently had been placed by legislation in a far better position than was enjoyed by other tenants in Ireland, and, while he was glad to see the success which had attended that legislation, he certainly was not prepared to assent to the passing of a Bill of that character when he reflected that in many portions of Tyrone, of Fermanagh, and of Antrim there were districts in which the tenants were not nearly so well off as the great majority of those in the congested districts. [Cries of "Oh, oh!"] He made that statement deliberately. [AN HON. MEMBER: What do you know about it?] He had been in a good many congested districts, and had watched the work of the Congested Districts Board, and he was perfectly convinced of the accuracy of his statement. The climate in the districts to which he was referring was colder than on the west coast, and, although they heard a good deal of lamentation about the wildness of the west coast, anybody who had had an opportunity—as he had had—of comparing the isolated tracts in Ulster with the congested districts area would agree that the tenants there were quite as badly off as those on the western seaboard.

DR. AMBROSE: That is not borne out by the Local Government Board Reports.

*MR. MACARTNEY said it was his opinion, at any rate, and anyone who, like himself, had driven through the particular distiets of which he was speaking would appreciate the difference between the western seaboard and the exposed parts of Tyrone and North Antrim.

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.): Put a tax on the Gulf Stream.

*MR. MACARTNEY said allusion had been made to the opposition of the landlords, but he could not see how the landlords of any part of Ireland could be interested in opposing the passing of this Bill. He opposed it because, in the first place, it altered the constitution of the Congested Districts Board to such a degree and in such a manner as to deprive that Board of its power and authority to effectually carry out the duties entrusted to it by Parliament. Secondly, he opposed it because it made an inroad on the funds provided by the State for land purchase in Ireland generally, an inroad which had not been justified by any arguments put before the House, and he for one could not consent to a fund intended for the whole of Ireland being used solely for compulsory purchase in the congested areas. In the third place he saw no reason whatever for the inclusion of the whole of the counties scheduled in the Bill in the congested districts area.

He did not deny that there might be some portions of Ireland which might very well be added to the area already under the supervision of the Bill, and no doubt the Chief Secretary, if he had not the power of adding them, would apply to Parliament for it in due time. While he trusted that the House would always give a sympathetic hearing to proposals emanating from any quarter for remedying distress either on the west coast or in any other part of Ireland, he did urge it not to pass this Bill on the grounds which he had stated. He therefore begged to move that the Bill be read a second time that day six months.

MR. MOORE (Antrim, N.), in seconding the Amendment, said that hon. Members on both sides of the House, whether they approved of the Bill or not, ought at least to be grateful to the hon. Member who had brought it forward, because he had afforded them another opportunity of discussing a really important Irish subject. The importance of the subject was shown by the fact that the new Chief Secretary, when he first took up his duties, paid a personal visit to the congested districts, in order to examine into the working of the Board. It was now ten years since the Board was first instituted, and it was well that they should have an opportunity of reviewing its work. It would be remembered that the Board was empowered to pursue three direct methods for the purpose of diminishing the distress in the districts placed under its control. In the first place it was instructed to develop the sea fisheries, and it was very gratifying to know that so successful had its work been in that direction that in a period of three months twenty-three boats, at a place on the coast of Donegal, had been enabled to earn £7,000, while the Midland and Great Western Company of Ireland in one season carried no less than 23,000 tons of fish from the western seaboard. Then, again, the Board's action in connection with cottage industries had been equally satisfactory, although perhaps public attention had not been very much centred upon it.

Now, this Bill proposed to give the Board further powers on the third and most important side—the agricultural side—of its work. He did not wish to repeat anything said by the last speaker, but he was bound to say that, in his opinion, it was desirable that the collection of districts which formed the unit in the Act of 1891 should continue to be the unit. In every county almost there was a belt of fertile land, however poor the remainder might be. While the Bill proposed to increase the area under the control of the Congested Districts Board, it did not propose to increase its income. The Act of 1891 was not sufficiently elastic, and he thought it was desirable that the Congested Districts Board should be enabled to segregate the congested districts, and that instead of insisting that 20 per cent. of the entire population of a county should live in a congested area before the Act could be put into operation, they should take as the unit electoral divisions with a minimum population of 10,000. In the northern counties there were considerable town populations which had to be brought into the computation, and that he suggested was not desirable. Hon. Members opposite would, he was sure, acquit him of any suggestion of political prejudice or bigotry in that matter, because the very people whose cause he was pleading were their co-religionists. He had never looked to them for any political support, but he did contend that, in common fairness, the Nationalists of Antrim should share benefits equally with those of Galway whenever there was a Government grant to be distributed. At present, everything seemed to go to the west coast.

MR. T. M. HEALY: Not at all. Look at Ardglas.

MR. MOORE said he was not denying that the people of the west coast were poor. All he was contending was that the money should be equally divided.

MR. T. M. HEALY: What about Ardglas?

MR. MOORE: That is in county Down. What he wanted to point out was that while of the Government grant, given in 1887, for the development of Irish fisheries, county Clare got £11,000, Galway £28,000, and Mayo £30,000, Antrim only received £1,000. He wished to lay down the proposition that it was a mistake to assume that the entire destitution and poverty of Ireland was concentrated on the seaboard of Galway. Let them look at his own Division, where, in the Glen district, they would find a population settled on small patches of land tilled with primitive and unskilled methods, where the cattle and sheep had deteriorated in breeding and decreased in numbers, and where the people led most comfortless and cheerless lives. They were huddled up together, and no one bothered their heads about them. Their more prosperous neighbours in the county of Antrim, who farmed the lowlands, did not feel bound to contribute to their relief any more than did the people who farmed the rich lands in the west deem it their duty to assist their poorer brethren in the congested areas. They constituted, in fact, an almost forgotten race. It was objected, when the Act of 1891 was passed, that it would be very unsatisfactory to have what might be called sporadic congested districts scattered throughout the country. He could quite understand the difficulty and expense which might be entailed on the Congested Districts Board by having one patch to deal with in Antrim, another in Derry, and others in Kerry and Galway. But owing to what had happened in the last ten years, that difficulty had been diminished. They now had an Agricultural Board with its staff of inspectors in nearly every county, and surely there would be no difficulty in placing congested areas under the supervision of those inspectors. The Congested Districts Board might well be allowed to utilise the staff of the Agricultural Board for its own purposes. Next he came to the question of the elective constitution of the Board. He understood that the proposal contained in the Bill was defended on the ground that the people who paid were entitled to representation. That was all very well if the people did contribute to the funds which the Board expended. In this case they did not.

COLONEL NOLAN (Galway, N.): They are taxed.

MR. MOORE: Certainly; but if that were the argument it would follow that the County Council of Antrim would have as much right to a seat on the Congested Districts Board as the County Council of Galway. What he wanted to point out was that there was no direct local contribution to the fund which the Congested Districts Board had to administer, and if they were to have local representation on the Board, then certainly every council in Ireland should have the right to send a representative. They ought to be very careful before they accepted any proposal which would make the Board too unwieldy. He had never heard any suggestion from any part of Ireland that the Board did not do its work well, and he therefore hoped this proposal to alter its constitution would not be pressed. It might fairly be considered by the Chief Secretary, however, how far local committees or temporary commissions might assist the Board in its work.

There was only one other matter to which he wished to refer, and that was the proposal for the compulsory taking of land. It was perfectly true that he was a strong advocate of the principle of compulsory purchase. But he held that that principle was applicable only to the case of dual ownership, and he did not understand that the proposal of this Bill suggested there was any dual ownership in respect of the lands to be dealt with. The Congested Districts Board was in the same position as an ordinary individual seeking to acquire adjoining land. There was no question of terminating a partnership, and therefore the Board, when seeking to secure possession of land by legal force, should be compelled to pay for it on the scale which ordinarily obtained in such cases. He thought he had sufficiently shadowed to the House the reasons which led him to support his right hon. friend the Member for South Antrim in his motion for the rejection of the measure. He could only add his hope that, later on in the debate, they would receive from the Chief Secretary some assurance that in the near future he would afford them practical evidence of his sympathy with the difficulties which admittedly existed.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day six months.'"—(*Mr. Macartney*).

Question proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

*MR. JOHN O'DONNELL: I rise to support the Bill which has been introduced by the hon. Member for North Cork, and in doing so I may be permitted to express my regret that the Government have neglected to introduce a measure of such vital importance to so many people in Ireland, and have thereby ignored the wants of a very considerable portion of those who are best entitled to their consideration—I mean the poor and oppressed in the congested districts. I have at the same time to express my dissatisfaction at the conduct of two hon. Members who represent agricultural constituencies in Ireland, who moved and seconded the rejection of this Bill. I wish also to refer to some observations made by the right hon. Member for South Antrim, who had spoken with admiration of the monument which the First Lord of the Treasury had raised for himself in Ireland in the shape of the Congested Districts Board. The right hon. Member viewed that monument from a long distance. He has not looked at it from the point of view of one who, like myself, has lived in the west of Ireland. I have had ten years experience of the working of that Board, and have come to the conclusion that if it be a monument it was built on a bad foundation. No man who has any acquaintance with the everyday affairs of the world but will say that if a machine in daily use is not found to work in accordance with the intentions of the owner or inventor, it is overhauled, or a new one substituted for it. I say that the same principle should apply to the Congested Districts Board. Speaking for my constituents in the West of Ireland who are affected by the operation of the Congested Districts Act, and who would be affected by the passage of this Bill into law, I say that they are not anxious for the rejection of the Bill. The attitude of the right hon. Member for South Antrim reminds me of the seed in the Gospel which fell among barren soil or among thorns. It was strange indeed to find hon. Members representing constituencies mainly made up of farmers in one part of Ireland opposing a Bill brought in by Members representing farmers in another part of Ireland. I would remind the right hon. Member for South Antrim, who supports compulsory purchase, that he is, in opposing this Bill, neglecting the interests of his constituents. As a native of the county of Mayo, I give the right hon. Member's statement about the Mayo County Council a flat contradiction, for within the last few weeks the secretary for the county council of that county received a most flattering letter from the Local Government Board as to the way in which the business of the county council is conducted.

This Bill, brought in by the hon. Member for North Cork, will enable the Congested Districts Board to extend the sphere of its operations. That Board was established by Act of Parliament in the year 1891, and was empowered to take such steps as they think proper to improve the congested districts in connection with agricultural development, forestry, breeding of live stock and poultry, the sale of potatoes and seed oats, the amalgamation of small holdings, migration, emigration, fishing, and matters subservient to fishing, weaving and spinning, and any other suitable industries. It is not my intention on this occasion to refer to any of these subjects, with the exception of the amalgamation of small holdings and migration. The figures made use of by the hon. Members for North Cork and West Mayo will give hon. Members a ready method of understanding the reasons why discontent prevails in many parts of Ireland, and why a great cry has been raised against a land system which compels so many thousands of our people to live on such wretched holdings, while in most instances there are within sight thousands of acres of excellent land given over to the feeding of cattle and sheep at a loss to most of the graziers who hold them. To any man in this House who professes to know anything about the means necessary to be obtained in order to live, it must be a source of curiosity to know how an average family of six can eke out an existence on £4 worth of land. Unfortunately in many instances families have to live on a great deal less. Perhaps when I try to illustrate to this House the way poor people have to do it, hon. Gentlemen opposite, instead of opposing this measure and howling us down because we endeavour to expose the grievances of our people, will be filled with feelings of surprise that we have submitted so long and so patiently to that condition of things. Some days ago I heard the Chief Secretary for Ireland remark that a certain class of tenant in Ireland, those paying an average of £3 a year as rent, were happy because they had little more than twopence a day to pay for lodging and land. Well, there might be some reason in the remark if it could be shown that, in addition to giving even a pauper's fare to the family, a farthing a day could be saved. I will prove to this House that, putting everything together, more than a shilling a day cannot be taken out of a £4 holding, and out of this small sum the landlord, who neither toils nor spins, must indeed get close on 3d. of it, and leave an average family of six to live as best they can, so far as he is concerned, on the balance of 9d. Surely the right hon. Gentleman cannot say that they have a luxurious time of it. I have not gone to Blue-books for my information ; I have not taken railway trips in a saloon carriage at the rate of sixty miles an hour ; but I have arrived at my conclusion, and based my knowledge on an experience gained by having lived among these people during the greater part of my life. I am the son of a tenant farmer in county Mayo, I am proud to say. I know what it is to dig with a spade, and to follow the plough, and I sympathise with these people in their sufferings, and would, if necessary, share their joys if any came to them once in a generation.

I take the case of an average £4 holder, who is supposed to be much better off than a £2 or £3 holder, and I can defy contradiction when I say that the receipts of such a man for a year amount to as follows—Butter, £4 ; cattle, £5 ; pigs, £5 ; sheep, £2 ; eggs and poultry, £2 10s., making a total of £18 10s. What is his expenditure ? Rent, £4 ; taxes, £1 2s. 6d. clothing, £6 ; meal and flour, £8 ; groceries, £3 7s. 6d. ; sundries, £3 ; young pigs, £1, or a total of £26 10s.—without saying anything about a small saving for old age. This is equivalent to a deficit of £8 which must be found elsewhere in order to live. Where does the farmer turn to in order to get that £8 ? He has no relief in his immediate surroundings ; but when the 21st or 22nd June comes round he bids farewell to his wife and children, begs or borrows 13s. or 14s. to carry him across the Irish Channel to the harvest fields of England, there for six months to remain a slave to English task-masters to get the means of subsistence for his wife and family. The poor harvestman who is thus compelled to go to England is not burdened with much of the world's goods in the shape of trappings, as it only too often happens that he can tie up all that he uses for the season in a cotton handkerchief or other small piece of cloth. It is very easy for the Chief Secretary to say that that man has only twopence a day to pay for lodging and land, but it is a very hard matter to get that twopence a day. It is easy indeed for hon. Members who have incomes of from £5,000 to £10,000 a year, and have perhaps a fat salary of £5,000 in addition, to look with contempt on these poor farmers in the west of Ireland. Hon. Members do not know the needs of these poor people, or they would not turn a deaf ear to the demands of those whom they send here to expose their grievances. Perhaps a time may come when we shall get a sympathetic word from the Treasury bench and the concession of that to which we are entitled, namely, the right to live, if not in luxury, at least in independence and comfort in our native land.

The intentions of Parliament were no doubt fairly good in passing the Act which brought into existence the Congested Districts Board, but, like all other Acts of Parliament passed by this House for the benefit of the Irish people, it is surrounded by such an amount of red tape and useless ceremony, causing such delay in its administration, as to render it almost useless to the class of people it was intended to serve. Everybody who has any knowledge whatever of the conditions of things as they exist in the province of Connaught, and in Donegal, Kerry, and parts of Cork, must admit that until such time as this Board is empowered to get the land for the people who are desirous of obtaining it, and until they get to the root of the trouble by obtaining compulsorily the thousands of acres of land lying waste at the doors of these unfortunate people who are squatted on small patches of worn-out bog, moor, and marsh, there can be no peace or contentment for Ireland. My hon. friend the Member for North Cork quoted in the course of his speech a very remarkable portion of a report made by the Congested Districts Board. I forget whether he mentioned the fact that that report was signed by no less a personage than the President of the Board of Trade, who was then Chief Secretary, but who, like many of his predecessors in that office, got sick of the job. That right hon. Gentleman saw the real state of affairs during his tenure of office, and gave expression to what I consider a manly opinion, if he had only the courage of his convictions, and exercised the influence he possesses by putting an Act on the Statute Book which would enable that Board to carry out its good intentions. There is an old saying in Ireland—I suppose it is also current in England—that "It's better late than never"; and even now I would appeal to him to use that influence which the members of his family undoubtedly possess with the Government of the day and get them to pass into law the very modest Bill now before the House. It may be of some interest to hon. Gentlemen on the other side of the House who have no conception of the extraordinary delays in administering any law in Ireland that would be of use to the people for whose benefit it was intended, that during the first year of its existence this Board did not purchase a single acre of land. In its second year the Mount Bellew estate, county Galway, consisting of 1,200 acres, was purchased at £7,600. The third year they paid £5,000 for Clare Island, only after they received a guarantee from the illustrious Archbishop of Tuam and Mr. William O'Brien that they would be responsible for the payment of the instalments of the purchase money during the first seven years. Another year passed by, and one more estate, Carna, county Galway, of 1,321 acres, was purchased at a cost of £5,345. The following year another small slice—the Thompson estate, of 1,319 acres, in county Galway—was purchased at £1,250, which represented something like 18s. or 19s. an acre. How could you expect that people planted on that land for generations could be in a position of independence, or experience many comforts? I say that these figures may not be very comforting to hon. Gentlemen, but they are no less true, and we know that facts are stubborn things. These figures in themselves prove that we are unable to give a testimonial to the efficiency of the Congested Districts Board. Then the next year was spent in completing the purchase of the Carrowcannon estate, in county Donegal. This is comprised of 93 acres, the purchase money being £820, or twenty years purchase. It is only fair to state that of this sum the tenants paid four years purchase, so anxious were they to get the land. At last we are coming to a point where the Board seemed to be doing a little business, as in the year ending 31st March, 1899, they awoke to their senses, and purchased the following estates:—Rockfield, near Clifden, county Galway, having an area of 414 acres, at £1,850; Port Royal estate, county Mayo, covering an area of 5,230 acres, at a cost of £10,500; the Leetch estate, county Mayo, consisting of 538 acres, at a cost of £2,160; Knockaunakill estate, county Mayo; Ballymacragh, county Mayo, 372 acres; portion of the O'Donnell estate, county Mayo; the O'Reilly-Dease estate, county Mayo, consisting of 2,581 acres, which were purchased for £347; the Digby estate, county Mayo, 6,835 acres, at £2,000; the Higgins estate, county Mayo, 274 acres, at £2,633; the Dillon estate, county Mayo, the largest of all, consisting of upwards of 30,000 acres, at something like £250,000. Even at the rate of purchase during that year, it will take a very long time before the very vexed question on the western seaboard of Ireland can be satisfactorily settled.

I maintain that if the present Bill were to become law it would do a great deal in the desired direction. It would do a great deal in the way of smoothing the troubled waters in the most agitated parts of the country, and I have no doubt would tend towards the promotion of a better feeling between the two nations. As will be seen by what I have stated about the purchase of lands in Ireland by the Congested Districts Board, all, or nearly all, has been purchased in the county of Mayo, and in parts of the county where there is not the necessary room for improvement in the condition of the people commensurate with the expenditure involved. I do not complain because the purchases made so far have been chiefly confined to my native county. On the contrary, I should be glad if the whole county were in the hands of the Congested Districts Board to-morrow. What I do complain of is that they have made purchases in such places as the Barony of Erris, where the land is of such a terribly bad nature that it would give a hare the heartburn to scamper over it, and where there are no grazing tracks within the area purchased by which the holding could be in any way enlarged. I would wish to know why the Congested Districts Board during all these years did not turn their attention to the fertile plains of Mayo, the excellent ranches around Ballinrobe; or I might go even further, and ask why they do not go into the county of Roscommon, where I may say there are hundreds of square miles of grazing lands, perhaps the best in the world, which remind you more of the prairies in the Western States in America than a portion of the province of Connaught. It was stated by the right hon. Member for South Antrim that Roscommon is not congested, but I say the bogs and marshes are congested where the people, in old days, were hunted to act as fence-holders for the landlord, and where they have never enjoyed human rights, where they were driven into the last ditch, by evicting landlordism, and where I trust they will hold on until in the near future they may be enabled to come out and enjoy the land of which their fathers were robbed, but which God and nature intended for their use and benefit. In these places there is ample room for carrying out the great task before the Congested Districts Board, and consequently I appeal in the most earnest and solemn manner to the right hon. Gentleman the Chief Secretary to use his influence with the Government to have the whole province of Connaught scheduled, by which means alone any effective work can be carried out within a reasonable limit of time. According to the official reports, the first five years of the Board's existence were spent in doing little or nothing, and, with the exception of Lord Dillon's estate, the remainder of the time has been spent on a few jobs in the county of Mayo.

Perhaps the Chief Secretary thought he was doing very good and useful work by going to the west of Ireland and visiting a few half-starved localities on the seaboard, where the people live among rocks and earn something by fishing, and where there is no earthly room for improvement in the way of enlarging the wretched holdings upon which they are squatted, and no chance of ever emerging from the poverty in which they are steeped. I noticed that the right hon. Gentleman was in Connemara, and that he met some persons there who did not mention a word about the only remedy for the existing evil, the buying up of the ranches and planting the cottier tenants on medium-sized holdings on which they might find the means of subsistence. I did not hear that anyone had told him a single word about the case of James Vallely, who got two months imprisonment for doing nothing but trying to carry out the recommendations of the immediate predecessor of the present Chief Secretary, or that the right hon. Gentleman made any stay in or near Letterfrack, where I understand there are a number of grazing farmers, and a very large number of persons living in congested villages around there, huddled together in worse conditions than beasts. Neither did I hear that he drove over the prairies of Kilmeena and Killmaclassas, between Westport and Newport, although he took the train on to Achill. I may be permitted to tell the right hon. Gentleman the Chief Secretary for Ireland that if he wants to know anything about the condition of the people in Connaught he must make up his mind that he will never learn much while he remains in a saloon railway carriage going at sixty miles an hour, or while he drives along the main roads, where, according to the natural order of things, the bulk of the people are extremely comfortable compared with the unfortunate creatures who have to eke out an existence away from the paths trodden by officials whenever they trouble themselves to visit the country which they profess to govern.

I want to call the attention of the Government to another matter—namely, the method by which the money is at present advanced by the Land Commission. At present the Congested Districts Board must make the purchase, arrange all the preliminaries, carry on the previous work of transferring leases, which often takes years to get over, and, if there are any holdings on the rundale system, the lands must be striped before any money can be got from the Board. In the meantime, the Congested Districts Board must advance all the money out of the limited amount at its disposal.

What I think should be done is to place the Board in such a position that it could call on the Land Commission at once for an advance that would cover any arrangement into which they might have entered with the owners or occupiers of land in Ireland. The existing system is cumbrous, tedious, and I might say almost useless, and in my judgment the red tape of the Government prevents the Board from doing a great deal of useful work. Of course, it will be always open to them to spend portions of their own money in the way of fencing, building, and draining, and instead of being hampered, as they are at present, they should be encouraged to proceed with the work which I believe that body was formed to carry out. From time to time I have heard the right hon. Gentleman the Chief Secretary for Ireland giving answers to questions in this House which would lead one to think that the purchase of other large estates in Mayo and other parts within the scheduled area would have been completed before now but for the methods, the tedious methods, adopted by the Government in advancing the money for the Dillon estate. I say, if that is the case, the Government are entirely to blame. They should know where the clog is in the machinery, and make every reasonable effort to remove the clog, so that the machinery may run as smoothly as it was intended to do. It was a very laudable thing to purchase the Dillon estate and put an end, no doubt, to a good deal of the discontent and the terrible condition of affairs which existed on that estate; but that is no reason why steps should not be taken to purchase the estates of Lord Sligo, where the conditions of slavery exist as much as on the Dillon estate, and where there are thousands of unfortunate people who would welcome any means of emancipation from the lash of tyrannical landlordism.

I will not, on this the first occasion I have had the honour of addressing the House, trouble it with many more observations; but the right hon. Gentleman who thought he was doing the right thing in moving the rejection of the Bill objected to popular representation on the Congested Districts Board. That right hon. Gentleman supported Local Government in Ireland, which was carried on by popularly elected boards, and I think he is thoroughly inconsistent in opposing the proposal to make the Congested Districts Board a partially elected body. The right hon. Gentleman argued that because there was no direct taxation for the money dispensed by the Congested Districts Board, there was no justification for making it an elective body. But the people paid indirect as well as direct taxes, and there was more reason to have popular representatives on a Board which dispensed money obtained by indirect taxation than on a Board supported by direct taxation. As an Irishman holding, no doubt, very advanced views on this subject, but voicing also the feelings of my constitutents, I would say to the Chief Secretary that in his hands lies the remedy for the evils that exist in the congested area in the west of Ireland. When the right hon. Gentleman was appointed Chief Secretary there were many people in Ireland who believed that that appointment was directed by the hand of fate, and that the right hon. Gentleman would be able to carry out, by constitutional methods, the ambitions that were centred in his noble and never-to-be-forgotten and illustrious ancestor who laid down his life for Ireland. I would appeal to the right hon. Gentleman to forget for the moment that he is an Englishman, and to look back 100 years to the connection between that enlightened ancestor of his and the poor people of Ireland. Whether it be to my credit or otherwise, I confess I was one of those who believed his appointment would lead to good results, and therefore I listened with pain and disappointment to him when in answer to the hon. Member for Tyrone he used the word "Never" in relation to the redress of our grievances.

If the Government may not find it convenient to adopt this Bill, let them bring in one of their own. I am not desirous of giving hon. Members around me all the honour and glory of carrying the Bill. I beseech hon. Gentlemen on the other side of the House, the old men, not to look upon this as a revolutionary or political measure, but one only intended to do justice to the people of Ireland. There are men on those benches opposite who will never sit in another Parliament. It requires no prophetic instinct to ascertain that fact. I would appeal to those who no doubt have served their country faithfully and well to think for a moment that this is the last Parliament they will ever adorn, and that there can be no prouder boast which they can make to their children's children than that, towards the close of their long life, they had assisted in making of Ireland, not an enemy but a real friend, by extending to her just laws, which removed the grievances of the Irish people and made Ireland governed as is England. I appeal to another class, the new men, the young men who have got into Parliament for the first time in the scramble of the last General Election. They too may be full of ambitions, they may desire to improve the condition of England, as we desire to improve the condition of Ireland. I appreciate a man who, from patriotic motives, fights strenuously for his country, whether he be an Englishman or Irishman. I appeal to those young men, filled with noble ambitions and a desire to perform good work, to do justice to Ireland, and I trust that these appeals will have effect on all quarters of the House. I thank hon. Members for their kind indulgence, and would conclude by saying that it is my firm belief that hon. Members who are desirous of serving England as well as Ireland should support this Bill.

MR. RENTOUL (Down, E.) said that four years ago he put his name to the back of a similar Bill. Before doing so he had gone as thoroughly into the subject as it was possible for him to do, and after looking at all points of view he had no hesitation in backing the Bill. Since then he had seen no reason to change his opinion, and so proposed to support the measure before the House. There had been no fault to find with the work done by the Congested Districts Board, which had done its work well and conscientiously; and the Bill was brought in to extend the usefulness and increase the power of a Board which was admitted to be a good one. He could see no objections to the principle of a Bill which had that object in view. The Bill contemplated widening the powers of the Board in four particulars: first, it desired to extend the area over which the Board exerted its power; secondly, to remove the [restrictions in the exercise of powers at present vested in the Board; thirdly, it proposed to give a partially representative character to the Board; and, fourthly, to give it compulsory powers which seemed to be necessary in various parts of the country, in order that the Board might work with satisfaction. No one seemed to have taken objection to the two first clauses of the Bill except in the case of extension, where certain counties had been scheduled, that the Congested Districts Act could not be applied to the whole of the county. That was true in the case of county Donegal, because what is known as the Parliamentary district of East Donegal was one of the best districts of Ulster; but other districts of Donegal were admittedly among the poorest and worst of the congested districts of Ireland. Was it a reason, because a small section of county Donegal was prosperous from all points of view, why all the rest of the county should be excluded from the operation of the Act? In his opinion, some change should be made in the schedule, so that certain parts of a county might be excluded. If it were not excluded could it be conceived that the representative on the Board from Donegal would apply for the operation of the Act to East Donegal? Would he not, as the representative of the whole county, see that the money applied to Donegal was applied to those portions of the county where it was needed? If that argument were applied in its entirety, there was no county which could not be excluded from the operation of the Act, for there was no county in Ireland in which there were not parts outside the definition of the words "congested districts." The Board having been beneficial in its work, he could see no reason for not extending its operations.

The third clause, which dealt with the partially elective power of the Board, he liked best of all. It was not intended by the Bill to constitute an elective body entirely, but only a partially elective body, the other half being nominated by the Lord Lieutenant.

It had been argued that if there was an, elective representation each representative would endeavour to secure all the money for his own county; but even if he did he would be only one, and the other representatives would not allow it. Objection had been taken that the people elected to this Board might have no knowledge of the districts for which they were elected. That was a position he could not follow, because such gentlemen, as, for instance, the chairman of the County Council of Donegal, knew every inch of the county from end to end. It would be from the county councils and other bodies that the representatives would be drawn, and he believed that, generally speaking, there was not a man on a county council of Ireland who was not familiar with the county which he represented. He thought the elective proposal in the Bill would work extremely well.

With regard to the fourth clause, which proposed to confer compulsory powers on the Board, he could see no possible objection to it. He thought, if this Bill were carried, it would be a very useful step, because compulsory powers could not be used all at once. £125,000,000 could not be spent at a greater rate than £25,000,000 a year; and it would only mean that the work would be carried out on a wider and broader scale than it was at present. The Bill was brought forward by the Irish representatives and not by the Government. The evils which it sought to deal with had not occurred in a moment. The Bill was not a sudden idea, but something that had been brought forward several times in the last five years.

He thought the Bill was reasonable in every point of view, and though hon. Members had endeavoured to point out what they considered the fatal defects of the Bill, he might say it was always easy to show other people how much more clever we were than they in drafting a Bill. He saw no serious defect in the Bill at all, and any defect that might be pointed out at this stage of the Second Reading could be put right in the Committee stage. It had been stated that the money would be better applied if there was no local influence brought to bear on the Board. The Bill now under consideration guarded against the Board being subject to local influence. It was said that it would abolish the limits placed on the Land Commission in connection with the making of advances to the poor, and that the whole of the money under the control of the Commission might be handed over to the Congested Districts Board and applied to those eight counties to the exclusion of all the other counties, There was no body in the world that might not do insane and idiotic things, and so it might be that all the money at the disposal of the Land Commission might be given to a single county, but they knew that men were likely to act as sensible men in regard to a matter of this kind. It did not seem to him that there was the slightest danger in that particular direction.

He should be very glad if the Chief Secretary could see his way to accept this Bill, subject to such changes and improvements as might be made in Committee. He could see no reason whatever why the Chief Secretary should not agree to give the Bill a Second Reading. A great number of Gentlemen who would vote had not been in the House to hear the arguments. That, of course, applied to every Bill that came before the House, and he did not wish to make a point of it. The bulk of the Members would be naturally and readily guided by the advice that came from the Government benches.

MR. HEMPHILL (Tyrone, N.): I think I need not intervene for more than three or four minutes in the debate, because I know that a great number of friends below the gangway are anxious to express the views of their constituents on this important Bill. The reason I rise at all is that I stand somewhat in the position of an independent Irish Member in this House. I am on the one hand beyond the reach of the whip and the leader of the party below the gangway, and I am beyond the crack of the whip of the Treasury Bench. In that independent position I wish to state why I mean to vote for the Second Reading of this Bill, and I join most heartily with the hon. and learned Member who has just sat down in his appeal to the Chief Secretary for Ireland and to the Attorney General to see their way, if possible, to give a Second Reading to the measure.

I have listened with the greatest attention to the able speech of the hon. Members for West and South Mayo. The Member for South Mayo, I think, gave most accurate information to the House, based on careful statistical research, and the result of that must impress every fair-minded man who heard his speech that something must be done to relieve the miserable condition of a great proportion of the inhabitants of Ireland—the miserable condition of the tenants who occupy farms valued at £4 or under. It is in the interest of the whole of the United Kingdom, it is in the interest of the Empire, that every measure should be adopted which will prevent the disgrace the condition of Ireland, in respect of a great proportion of its inhabitants, reflects upon this great country. This Bill I regard as a small instalment in that direction, and for that reason I support it. The principles involved in the Bill when put briefly are three. The first principle is that we should extend if possible the powers of the existing Congested Districts Board. We are not pledged to the particular details of the Bill as printed in that respect. It has been criticised not unfairly by, I think, the right hon. Member for South Antrim in that regard, but the principle is to extend the powers of the present Congested Districts Board, and to extend the area of its operations, and it is not at all necessary to adhere servilely to the particular schedule attached to the Bill, and to hold that the whole of the different counties mentioned in the schedule should be under the operation of the Board. I have experience of the counties of Kerry and Leitrim, and I know the poverty and destitution existing there. The greater portion of those counties would, no doubt, properly come within the sphere of the Congested Districts Board. That I regard as a matter of detail, and it will be no excuse to hon. Members opposite, who hold another view, for refusing to support this reasonable demand on the part of what I may say is certainly three-fourths of the Irish people, to give them this concession. The objection to that principle does not rest on any solid ground, because it is a matter that can be set right at once in Committee.

The next principle is to empower the Congested Districts Board to exercise compulsory purchase. I am not going into the great principle involved in compulsory purchase. It would not be in order to do so now, but it is one of the questions that must be dealt with, and dealt with speedily, either in this session or an early session. I am now confining myself to the application of that principle to the Congested Districts Board. It has been argued by my hon. and learned friend the Member for North Antrim that it would be absurd to apply this system of compulsory purchase to the Congested Districts Board, because, although he is in favour, as I understood his argument, of compulsory purchase for the purpose of getting rid of dual ownership, he odjects to compulsory purchase if exercised by a board which admittedly has the confidence of the country like the Congested Districts Board. Surely the principle of compulsory purchase, which applies to the acquisition of property by public bodies like municipalities, or companies like railway companies, may very well be applied and exercised by a board like the Congested Districts Board, and if the right hon. Gentleman opposite wishes to apply some machinery whereby the amount of the purchase money would be ascertained by the verdict of a jury, I am very sure that Gentlemen on this side of the House would not ultimately object to that arrangement. But I am not assuming that now, because it is sufficient for me to say that the principle of compulsory purchase is a sound one, and that it ought to be applied. Passages have been read from the Reports of the Congested Districts Board by some of my friends below the gangway, and these passages show that the Board itself is in favour of having this power, and that it has admitted that the absence of this power has prevented the full benefit of the Act being taken advantage of. Why then will English and Scotch Members who are impartial and fair-minded hesitate to give a Second Reading to the Bill, in order to have it fully discussed and debated in Committee and hedged round by any sensible conditions they may consider necessary?

The third principle is that there ought to be added to the present Congested Districts Board the representative element. I am all in favour of that principle. There is no doubt that it is an excellent Board. There are members on it in whom the Irish people as a race have the utmost confidence. I might mention the Right Rev. Dr. O'Donnell, who commands, perhaps, more than any other individual the confidence of the entire Irish race. I might mention another gentleman whose acquaintance I have the honour of possessing, a well-known philanthropist in Dublin, and a man of great commercial position—I mean Charles Kennedy. There is also Mr. Wrench. But I would like to add the representative element for another reason. My idea is that one of the evils we have to struggle with in Ireland, and one of the causes of the grievances of Ireland being perpetually brought up and paraded, and necessarily paraded, before this House of Commons, is the existence of so many purely nominated boards—gentlemen nominated by the Ministry of the time, irresponsible to the taxpayers, and out of sympathy with the wishes and aspirations of the people.

I will illustrate what I say. At present friction exists between the Local Government Board and the County Councils, but if there was a representative Local Government Board the Act by which the county councils were created would work more favourably for the country. It might be that instead of every county council having the nomination of one member of the Board, what may be called an association of county councils should have the power of selecting some six or ten to represent the county councils generally on the Board. I merely throw out that as a possible means of getting rid of the objection. If you had thirty-two or thirty-three additional members the Board would become too cumbrous and difficult to work. I came to the House prepared to support the Bill, and I have been relieved from the necessity of troubling the House with statistics by the statistical ability of the Member for South Mayo. If I had had any doubt about supporting the Bill, that would have been removed by the touching and eloquent appeal of another Member from Mayo, on whose appearance I congratulate the present Parliament. I say, after an experience in and out of Parliament for a great number of years, and having heard many speakers, I have rarely heard a speech of truer eloquence and with a higher ring than that of the hon. Member. It was free from all affectation, and spoken from the heart, and showed on behalf of the Irish people the wrongs of that much-wronged race.

*MR. LECKY (Dublin University) said he earnestly hoped that the Government would not allow the Congested Districts Board to be dragged into the vortex of politics. It was absolutely certain that that would be the result if the representative principle were largely introduced into it. He ventured to say that the Congested Districts Board, as at present constituted, was one of the most efficient bodies ever set up to alleviate the condition of that class of the Irish people who were most seriously suffering. Nothing that was done for Ireland in the course of the last Parliament was so beneficial as the measure which considerably increased the revenue of that Board, and, in several respects, its functions. He knew it was the custom for hon. Members there and elsewhere to depreciate and decry Castle Boards, but those Boards consisted of men of great ability, who dealt with Irish affairs in a highly impartial spirit, whose single aim was to improve the condition of the people of the country, and he was sure that they were far more truly representative of the best elements of Irish life than any elective body they were likely to have. It would be a great misfortune if they were to introduce the methods and principles of the United Irish League into the administration of the Congested Districts Board. He believed that the House of Commons, whatever else it was, was a very good judge of character, and would be able to decide whether the kind of Members who came over to represent the United Irish League were the class of men from whom an impartial administration of public money and public powers was reasonably to be expected.

*MR. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.): I have listened to the speech of the right hon. Gentleman who represents Dublin University, and the answer I should be inclined to give to it is that the best way to cure that which he, and everyone else, deplores is to give a limited representation on the Congested Districts Board to the county councils. It is not by keeping them outside that this mischief is to be undone, but by making them responsible and leaving the responsibility upon them. I was in Parliament in 1891 when the Land Purchase Act was passed. It included the provision for the Congested Districts Board. I have never wavered in my opinion that it was one of the best measures this House ever passed. It has done incalculable good to Ireland, and if anybody who knows Ireland doubts it, I ask him to compare the county of Donegal in 1880 with the county of Donegal to-day. The change is in every sense remarkable, especially in the matter of cottage industry. I am not so sure about the other districts, but I am quite certain that Donegal has been materially changed by the policy of the right hon. Gentleman the First Lord of the Treasury. There is no reason why we should stop there. Is not that a reason for going forward? I say that the fact that the policy has succeeded is an additional reason why this House should go forward and should not stand still.

Let me put the three main provisions of the Bill again. The Bill proposes in the first place to extend the area under the Congested Districts Board. Of course hon. Members are aware that these areas are on the western coast. They are scheduled, and the Act only applies to those areas. This Bill proposes to lump a certain number of counties and to include those counties in the schedule. I do not say that is right altogether. We have never proceeded in this matter by counties before. I do not see why we should proceed by counties now, but nobody will deny that there are districts outside the schedule that properly ought to be included, and, whilst I am not prepared to say that we ought to add the counties enumerated in this schedule, I am prepared to say that there are parts of some counties which ought to be scheduled. That is a matter for consideration by the Committee of this House, and not for the debate on the Second Reading of the Bill. Who that knows Donegal would say that the barony of Raphoe ought to be scheduled as a congested district, and should receive the advantages designed specially for the very poor? But that is not a reason for voting against the Bill. It is a reason for examining the Bill in Committee, and critically looking at the facts of each district, excluding those which ought to be excluded and including those which ought to be included.

Let me next take the question of representation. This Bill proposes that a certain number of county councillors should be added to the board. I think the representation sought is too large. Let the House bear in mind that when the provisions were passed establishing the Congested Districts Board the county councils were not in existence. Does anybody doubt that in this democratic House of Commons, when the right hon. Gentleman the First Lord of the Treasury was looking about for a body to carry the Act into operation, if the county councils had been in existence that they would not have had their share of representation? I say nobody can doubt it. This House is not going to set up county councils and declare afterwards that they are not entitled to take part in work appertaining to their own counties. [Colonel SAUNDERSON laughed.] My right hon. and gallant friend seems to be amused.

COLONEL SAUNDERSON (Armagh, N.): Yes, very much.

*MR. T. W RUSSELL: My right hon. friend furnishes a good deal of amusement for the House, but I have never found that we have profited very much by his constructive ability. The hilarity and gaiety of Parliament has gained a great deal from my right hon. friend's presence, but never, so far as I remember, has he left the slightest impression on an Act of Parliament. I am not prepared to go the length of saying that there ought to be ten county councillors added to this nominated board, but I say that, if you are going to set up a nominated board, the proposal to add some elected members is not an outrageous proposal. Let us take another point. Why should they be added? The Congested Districts Board has often to call in assistance to get over delicate and difficult matters. It may be the enlargement of holdings. Everybody knows how difficult an operation that is in Ireland, and we all know that that prelate whose name has been mentioned here to-day has been brought to use his influence over and over again, and properly, to carry on this beneficent work. Those county councils at all events have the confidence of the people. They are elected by them, they know the districts, and they would be precisely the men to whom the tenants in difficult operations, where they think themselves aggrieved, would go for help in the bridging over of those difficulties and making things pleasant where they often are not.

Now let me take the third part with reference to compulsory sale. I heard the speech of an Ulster Member to-day. It is all very well to announce your adhesion to compulsory sale in the abstract, but when a Bill is introduced proposing to do it, you see the difference between the advocates of compulsory sale. I ask the House to take cognisance of what kind of district this western district is. I heard the right hon. Gentleman the Member for South Antrim state to-day that there were districts in Antrim and Tyrone quite as poverty-stricken as any of those districts. I think the right hon. Gentleman is wrong. But what is the difference? All around these poor districts in Antrim and Tyrone labour abounds. There are rich and well-to-do people near at hand, and the people can get employment. Belfast is within a journey of an hour or two. Can that be said of these western districts? There is no commerce save the public-house. I say it is not fair to hold up these poor districts of Antrim and Tyrone in comparison with the western districts. They are not in the same position. These people in the west are shut up in their desolation, and there is no relief from year's end to year's end. What do you see when you go there? I have been through the congested districts twenty years ago when the English Government took no heed of them, because it was only when my right hon. friend the First Lord of the Treasury was Chief Secretary that the practice was initiated of going to see these districts. Before that these poor people were allowed to perish in their misery, and this House governed them without an idea of what their condition was. I have been there over and over again. I have not travelled along the main roads. I have gone into the hovels of the poor. I have been on Lord Dillon's estate, and I have been on the De Freyne estate. They are a disgrace to any country. The people are often living there in habitations you would not kennel your dogs in. It is one of the most disgraceful things to be seen in civilised Europe. It is indescribable—the poverty, desolation, filth, hunger, and misery. This is within twenty-four hours journey of this House and the richest country in the world. All this has been going on for years and years, and this House never dreamt of it, and the Government of the country never took the slightest notice of it, and until my right hon. friend the First Lord of the Treasury initiated his policy nothing was done to ameliorate the condition of these poor people. What do you see when you drive through these lands? You see rich fertile plains with thousands of sheep upon them. Then what do you come upon? You come upon rocky barren land. There you find hideous hovels which the people have built between the boulders. You find these poor people trying to cultivate the land around these boulders, and to scratch out a miserable existence.

MR. JOYCE (Limerick): And you expect us to be loyal.

*MR. T. W. RUSSELL: What I wish to point out is that the people were once on these fertile plains. Before the famine they were there. I admit that they were there in numbers the land could not support, and I have never doubted what ought to be done. They have been driven off these fertile plains, and sheep have been placed upon them. What is the remedy for that? It is years since I spoke to my own constituents on the subject. I said that I preferred men to sheep. I said that the Irish people have the right to live on their own land. They have the right to get back possession of the land from which their ancestors were driven. They are willing to pay for it. They are willing to pay more even than the value of the land. I know that there are difficulties connected with it. I know that the grass land is not always contiguous to those wretched holdings now, but I say you can never make the West of Ireland a tolerable place for the people to live in until you make up your mind that the people of the country have a prior right to the sheep of the capitalists, until you make up your mind that these lands must be cleared and cut up and peopled again. You can never do that without compulsion. Where these people are in a position that is appalling there never was a better case for the application of compulsion. Where are we to-day? We have a Bill before us and I have already said that I do not concur in all its details, but I am willing to examine them in Committee. What is the Government going to do? I have not the slightest idea. It strikes me from a speech made by my right hon. friend on his return from the west at a banquet in Dublin, that he felt the desolation and misery and poverty of these people. What struck me on reading the speech was that this region has affected the right hon. Gentleman. If the Government have a proposal of their own, which is possible—although from the look of things I do not expect much legislation of any kind—the House on both sides will welcome it. My hon. friends aronnd me can have no satisfaction in the existence of such areas as I have described. They feel it as much as hon. Members opposite deep down in their hearts, and would be quite willing to support the Government in any reasonable method of dealing with it. If they are going to deal with it themselves the least they could do would be to accept formally the Second Reading of this Bill, understanding of course that, pending the introduction of their own measure, this Bill would not go on. It would be an assurance that this question was not going to be hung up. I feel for these people as I feel for no other people in the country. It is a scandal to England that this state of things should be allowed to exist. I have spoken strongly and I feel strongly, and however long I may be in this House I shall never cease to plead for the poor and those who have no helper.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR (Liverpool, Scotland): I strongly hope that the right hon. Gentleman the Chief Secretary will pay attention to the very earnest and most sensible appeal made to him by the hon. Member for South Tyrone. I believe I am speaking in accord with the views of my hon. friends when I say that the proposal which the hon. Gentleman has just made is one which we on these benches accept—namely, that if the Government would allow this Bill to pass the Second Reading and thereby pledge themselves to its principle and its principle only, and if they would accompany that by the statement that they are determined and ready to deal with this question, we should make no attempt to proceed with this Bill until we hear what they propose to do. I hope that this day may be regarded as a great day for Ireland. The debate up to a certain part has gone upon lines which afford to the world a spectacle not often presented—that of a practically united Ireland. Indeed, as to the evil with which this Bill proposes to deal we are a united Ireland. The interruption of dissent of the right hon. and gallant Member for North Armagh is to be interpreted, I believe, not as denying the evil, but as against one of the many remedies the Bill proposes to apply; and the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Dublin University, while vigorously and eloquently assailing one of the proposals of the Bill, joined in the statement that a deplorable and lamentable state of affairs did exist in certain parts of Ireland.

Now let us see how far we differ. The last speaker has differed largely as to two principles of the Bill, and he has dealt less copiously with another, but still a most important, principle of the measure. Upon that point, the extension of the meaning of "congested district," I earnestly look to the Chief Secretary for his full support. There are certain existing definitions which practically make the congested districts a very small portion not merely of all Ireland, but of the poverty stricken parts. I have only to refer in confirmation of my statement to a recent utterance of the Chief Secretary, that in his opinion, beyond, outside, and entirely unconnected with the congested districts, there is a large mass of small, squalid, poverty-stricken patches in Ireland. That being so you must apply the definition and the remedy of congested districts to a larger area than is covered by the existing definition. How does this work out in practice? In a congested district the population must have a valuation of under 30s., and the unit of the congested district is the electoral district. The result of the definition is that you have an electoral district where the population as a whole is not under the 30s. valuation, but where there is a considerable portion quite as poor as or even poorer than the people in the so-called congested district, and yet in consequence of this narrow de-

ERRATUM.

12th March, 1901.—Colonel Nolan (page 1374): Delete from the word "trouble," in line 29, to the word "honour" in line 33, and substitute: "If the conduct of anybody had to be investigated, it was his conduct that should have been investigated by a court-martial. It must, however, be most distinctly understood that he imputed nothing against the honour of Colonel Spragge."

finition the Chief Secretary is practically precluded under the existing law from giving relief even to the poorer portion, because the whole district does not come under the definition. Furthermore, you have side by side with an electoral district which is a congested district another district in which a portion of the people are as poor as those in the congested district, but in which a considerable portion of the district is not poor, in the sense that it has rich grazing lands. But under the existing law the Chief Secretary is prevented from applying to this other electoral district the remedy which ought to lie to his hand. There is this extraordinary and almost incredible state of affairs—on one side of the road the squalor of an over-populated patch, and on the other the unpopulated rich grazing district, but you must not transfer the people from the one side of the road to the other. This evil is brought out very clearly in a district in Donegal. The total valuation is £5,154; of that valuation £1,275 are in the hands of landlords and in the non-resident land; £500 are in grass farms, and £48 are in bogs and woods; while the tenants' proportion is £3,330, including the buildings. Here you have side by side not merely in the same county or parish, but on the same estate, the untenanted and unoccupied land of the landlord and the over-populated land of the small tenant. Yet, will it be believed, that under the existing law the Chief Secretary has no means or power of dealing with such a case as that? It is outside the congested district, and therefore they cannot do what any rational man would do, namely, take possession by purchase and compensation of the grass lands and transfer the people not to a long distance, but merely from one portion to another of the same estate. To show how overcrowded this small estate is I may say there are 2,583 people thereon. Another case is the Bagot estate in county Roscommon. There again there is over-population on one portion of the estate and grass lands on the other. The Chief Secretary can adopt only one method, and that is a wrong one. He can purchase the estate, and distribute it to people brought from another district, but not to the people of the same estate. That conclusively proves that so far as the definition is concerned, the law is certainly defective.

With regard to the question of compulsory purchase the House is in a very remarkable position. Practically every Irish Member, with the exception of the right hon. Member for North Armagh and the representatives from Belfast, are pledged to the principle of compulsory purchase. The hon. Member for South Tyrone has had some animated controversy with hon. Gentlemen opposite as to the manner in which they have carried out their pledge.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL: No, I have not. I have had no controversy whatever with the hon. Gentlemen. I took their election pledges for what they were worth, and it was in the whole of them.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR: I should have called that perhaps consensus of opinion rather than criticism of views. But, whatever the definition is, the fact remains that for the most part hon. Gentlemen opposite from Ireland are pledged to the principle of compulsory purchase. In all seriousness, I ask, how can it possibly be consistent to be in favour of compulsory purchase as to the whole of Ireland, and against it as to the particular cases to which I am referring? I can understand an Ulster Member saying, "I will not vote for compulsory purchase if by so doing I am voting on a motion of want of confidence in the Government which I support." But that is not the question here. This is a private Bill, and every Member of the House can vote in favour of the measure and at the same time have all or no confidence in the Government. Therefore, I am utterly unable to understand how a Member can be in favour of compulsory purchase as a general principle in Ireland, and yet against it as applied to congested districts. If there was ever a case in which the principle was unassailable it is in the case of congested districts. The need is greater there than anywhere. Nobody will deny that.

With regard to most of the Bill, we have the universal assent of the Members from Ireland. The hon. and learned Member for East Down is going to vote for the Second Reading, and so also is the hon. Member for South Tyrone, reserving full liberty of action as to the details of the measure in Committee. Whatever may be said the one way or the other, every Member who votes for the Second Reading retains full liberty with regard to criticism of details in Committee.

Now I come to the point of representation, and I am sorry the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Dublin University adopted the tone he thought proper to do. In consequence of one of the clauses of the Bill he adopted an attitude of almost ferocious hostility to the measure as a whole, and he justified his action on the ground that in regard to a particular school in County Kerry an alleged injustice was done by the county council under the influence of the United Irish League. I do not profess to be acquainted with all the particulars of the case, but I can assure the right hon. Gentleman that there is another side to the question, and my hon. friends here are strongly of opinion that if that side were presented to the House it would be seen that there was no cause for complaint. But even admitting the grievance, would that seriously affect the question we are discussing? A mere bit of village gossip of that kind is unworthy of being regarded in connection with such a subject. The county councils are in existence; they were brought into being by a Conservative and Unionist Government; that Government must have thought the country was ready and fit for such institutions. Surely then we must take them with their general features and their errors, if there be errors. But not only are these bodies in existence, representation on public bodies by the county councils is also in existence. The predecessor of the present Chief Secretary established public boards dealing with matters in some respects as important as those which come under the survey of the Congested Districts Board, and on those boards he allowed, without any dissent from hon. Gentlemen opposite, a certain element of popular and county council representation in addition to the official element. I would make the same appeal to the Chief Secretary as was made by the hon. Member for South Tyrone. There is nothing the right hon. Gentleman could do for Ireland or which he regarded for the good of Ireland that

he would not do with a light, joyous, and glad heart. I do not believe we ever had a man in his position in Ireland with better intentions and a more generous sympathy. I do not deny that he has the limitations of his position. He is no more the master of his political circumstances or party than other Ministers have been or will be. But we are now on non-party ground. We are dealing with a question which to a large extent is outside the region of the fierce conflicting passions of race, creed, and class. On such a question the right hon. Gentleman ought to be perfectly at home and perfectly free. I hope by his attitude to-day he will give an earnest to the people of Ireland of his intentions when he gets on the free ground of social reform in Ireland, where party considerations no longer bind his lips or chain his limbs, and that he will accept the principle of the Bill here put forward.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover): The hon. Member concluded his speech with a personal appeal to myself, and he referred to similar appeals which have been made in the course of this debate. He was good enough to credit me with sympathy towards Ireland. Yes; and I hold that such sympathy should go without saying; and for my part, I do not care to adopt perforce an attitude of sympathetic inactivity. When I cannot act I must ask the House to take my sympathy for granted, even when inactivity is enforced. And may I without offence, remind hon. Members from Ireland that, although to-day we have had a most interesting and instructive debate upon Ireland, opportunities for such debates are limited and postponed if the time of the House is largely taken up with perhaps undue discussion of other affairs. [Oh, oh.] Wherever the fault may lie, so long as there is no opportunity for administrative or legislative activity upon my part, I prefer to wait until such opportunity falls to my lot. What Ireland needs, in my opinion, is not so much sympathy as the application of a businesslike spirit to real material needs on the part of those who by a turn of fortune are charged with the administration of affairs.

The hon. Member argued most forcibly for a change in the definition of a congested districts county. He reminded the House that I had stated that elsewhere and outside the congested districts there are many poor squalid holdings which are not good starting places for any honourable or useful career. That is quite true. But I must make this observation. That definition of a congested districts county was framed, rightly or wrongly, ten years ago, upon the proportion of such holdings in any one county to the whole county. Where in one county 20 per cent. of the population are so congested, that portion of Ireland is to be separately treated, and although I am not concerned to say that the last word was said in 1891, still I do think the House will appreciate the principle underlying that definition, namely, that where the bad parts of Ireland—the residuum estates as they are sometimes called—were only a comparatively small part of a great area, that area should carry that incumbrance and not come for public money or to this House for exceptional legislation. Does not the hon. Member see that the very argument to which he alludes illustrates the great complexity of the problem? The authors of this Bill are mainly bent on helping these congested districts by extending purchase. They are thinking of that more than of helping the congested districts by using the funds of the Board for encouraging industry, for relief works, or other philanthropic efforts. Does not the hon. Member see that the Bill and his argument lead us up to this difficulty, that the authors of the Bill are asking us to schedule wide areas in order to conduct land purchase for the advantage of using rich land for the benefit of poor land? If you pursue that attitude, what then becomes of the credit and the funds of the Board which are also allocated by Parliament in order to relieve the congested districts which are unable to help themselves? I venture to say that, although we are invited in all good faith to take up this Bill, it needs a great deal of careful consideration.

What is our present position in Ireland? Our position in Ireland at this present moment is illustrated by this volume which I hold in my hand, containing in a handy and compendious form the Acts passed in recent years by Parliament for the purpose of solving or approaching the solution of the Irish land question. Those Acts number forty-one, thirty-seven of which have been passed in the last twenty years.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL: And the question is still unsolved.

MR. WYNDHAM: The question before the House is not whether a forty second Act is needed, but whether this forty-second Act is precisely the measure which is called for by the circumstances of the case; frankly, I do not think it is. I believe that if we passed this Bill on a Wednesday afternoon we should be only erecting another tombstone over another good intention. I admit that the intention of the authors of this Bill is a good one, although I take grievous exception to some of the methods they have adopted for giving effect to that intention. I think that their intention, viz., to accelerate and to extend purchase in the poorer parts of Ireland and to sell to the tenant-purchasers holdings upon which they can live a decent life is a good one, and I do not propose at the outset to deal in purely destructive criticism of detail, nor indeed, to concentrate the whole of my observations upon the attempt to introduce compulsory principles into our ordinary land purchase system in Ireland. Either of those courses would be open to me, but for the moment I set them on one side. I hold as strongly as any one who has spoken that this subject is an important one. It is important to Ireland, and it is important to the Empire. It is bad for Ireland and bad for the Empire that so many of His Majesty's subjects should live in these districts so close to the head and the heart of the Empire under material conditions which preclude them from developing into citizens comparable in vitality and self-reliance to the citizens of other countries and other empires who are our competitors in the strenuous rivalry of industry and commerce. It is because of the importance of the subject that I venture to ask the House to bear with me if I attempt to illustrate a very dry matter, viz., some of those technicalities and complexities with which we are face to face.

You cannot judge of this or any other Bill for land purchase in Ireland unless you take into account the very elaborate system which it is intended to modify and amend. The Act of 1891—the principal Act as it is sometimes called—introduced by my right hon. friend the First Lord of the Treasury, set up a comprehensive and continuous system of voluntary purchase in Ireland, based and secured—and I think this is sometimes forgotten in this country—exclusively upon Irish assets, but (and no doubt this was indispensable) confirmed by the use of the credit of the United Kingdom, and allocated as far as it would go to the different counties in Ireland, so that they should have equal opportunities for purchase. It has been said in the course of this debate that if we pass this Bill it would be possible to spend the whole of the 33 millions available in the congested districts. I do not think it would be so, but if it were so that in itself would condemn the Bill. How could we ask Ulster to stand by while we were exhausting what, so far as the law now stands, is the extreme limit to which it is possible to conduct purchase in Ireland? This system is based on Irish assets—upon a very intricate and elaborate guarantee fund built up with great ingenuity by the First Lord of the Treasury. I will not trouble the House by reciting all the different assets in that fund, but they are ranked one behind another to the number of ten or twelve. The upshot is that a certain amount of money is due to Ireland every year, and since for the purpose of purchase we lend money through the Land Commission at 4 per cent., the total amount available is just one-twenty-fifth, no more and no less, of the whole of those sums which are due to Ireland. Also under the Act of 1891 it was laid down that certain parts of Ireland, namely, the congested districts, should be cut off and dealt with for all purposes as if they were separate counties, each with its own share and no more of this total available security upon which this complicated financial transaction rests and must rest. But there was this difficulty. In respect of the congested districts one and a half millions sterling of the Church Temporalities Fund was set aside and ear-marked for their benefit, and the interest upon that is at the disposal of the Congested Districts Board. But that amount of money also exists as a separate part of the guarantee fund for the congested districts. I hope I am not wearying the House, but I really do not think we can legislate upon these matters unless we appreciate what has been done in the past. That was done by the Government in 1891 because they felt, as the authors of this Bill feel, that the need for land purchase in congested districts and similar parts of Ireland and the difficulties of purchase were greater than in other parts.

Let me illustrate this. I do not profess to have the same knowledge of these districts as hon. Gentlemen from Ireland, but I try to get all the knowledge I can. Take Galway. There is a great estate there upon which the Land Commission will not advance a single shilling. There is great difficulty there; indeed, purchase under the ordinary Act cannot proceed. Take another sample from county Kerry. I have examined six unions in Kerry; I found that 462 occupiers were holding 10,696 detached plots, and that, whilst they held and cultivated that, they had access to 103,876 acres in common. Under the existing Act you cannot take that into account in making your sale. You have to sell to the occupying tenants and chance whether the owners you set up will derive any real benefit from the vast areas of common lands. If you go from Kerry to Mayo and Roscommon you find the problem is even harder, because there very often there is no common land. There you find that those who might be purchasers have not access to the great untenanted lands. Those are the two great difficulties—bad holdings which you ought not to sell to anybody, because they are not worth buying, and the untenanted lands which are not accessible under the Land Purchase Acts. That is why the First Lord of the Treasury and the Unionist Government of 1891 introduced the Congested Districts Board as an outside administrative body with funds to its credit and with authority based upon the confidence which it commands from both landlord and tenant. Act after Act was passed to give it greater authority and power. The hon. Member who in the debate made a most eloquent maiden speech criticised the Congested

Districts Board because in the earlier years of its existence it did not proceed very rapidly with the policy of land purchase. That is quite true; but that again warns us how necessary it is to proceed with great care in legislation. This original Act did not give the Board sufficient power to proceed, and it was not until this Act had been amended by the Acts of 1894 and 1896 and even by the Act of 1899 that the Congested Districts Board was in a position to proceed with land purchase upon the only lines which are likely to be successful in congested districts, namely, by buying an estate from the landlord for a fair price voluntarily—I believe that essential—and then re-settling it and re-selling it to the tenants, also voluntarily, for what they think it is worth their while to give. I invite the attention of the House to that power of the Congested Districts Board conferred only recently by those three Acts, because it is that power and that power alone which enables the Congested Districts Board to deal with the two difficulties of the bad holdings on the one hand, and the untenanted lands on the other.

Shall we help the Board if we pass this Bill? Not at all. The whole of that power which the Board have now is limited by the interest of 2¾ per cent. upon the one and a half million of Church money which is at their disposal. That is the only fund at their disposal for the purpose, and no provision in this Bill will increase that fund. Therefore the Bill is really quite inoperative, as I believe. It will not give the Board another shilling for this purpose, and the Board is using every shilling at its disposal. It is true that under the Act of 1899 this interior credit, if I may so call it, of one and a half million which the Board can use for land purchase, is also divided in fair shares between the different congested district counties. There is a provision in the Bill for altering that. Yes, but under the Act of 1899 the Treasury has reserved to itself a discretion, by which they can allow the Board to continue such purchases in any congested district county if any reasonable cause can be shown for doing so. Take, for an example, Mayo on the map. Mayo on the map, congested and uncongested together, is entitled roughly to £1,270,000 for purchase. Of that about £800,000 is due to congested Mayo. Of that, £264,000 represents this credit which the Board can use for purchasing from the landlords and re-settling and selling again. It is of the highest importance that that operation should be rapidly done. Yes, but this Bill will not help them. Take the Dillon estate. The Board bought the Dillon estate; no compulsion is needed; it is done. [An HON. MEMBER: How will you get the Clanricarde estate?] We are not getting on with the Dillon estate, because difficulties have arisen, and compulsion will not solve those difficulties. They are difficulties in respect of title, and in connection with the second inspection by the Land Commission. I must not dwell upon this matter, as it is *sub judice*, and will be decided in a few days, but I feel bound to say here, as I should certainly say if I could go across and give evidence, that I have great confidence in the experience and impartiality of the Chief Land Inspector of the Congested Ditricts Board, Mr. Doran, and that his schemes of land settlement are a very good guarantee for any money which is advanced.

I feel I owe an apology to the House for explaining the position as it is now, but before I come to the Bill I should like the House to consider how well the system has worked so far as it has gone. We are indebted to the hon. Member who introduced the Bill for the opportunity of thinking over a subject upon which the Government intend to legislate. [An HON. MEMBER: This session?] That depends upon a great many people other than the Government. Consider the success which has attended voluntary purchase, in so far as the security of its operations is affected by these Acts. Under the Ashbourne Act 25,280 persons have purchased land. In May of last year only 181 persons were in arrear at all; it is not a case of making default. That is seven men in every thousand. The sums advanced amount to £194,000, and the total amount in arrear at all, after years of experiment, is £1,152. Under the Acts of 1891 and 1894 22,229 persons purchased land, and the total number of persons in arrear with their instalments last May was 44—not one in

500 was late. The sum involved under those Acts is £136,000, and only £238 was in arrear, not one halfpenny in the pound. I take this opportunity of giving those figures, although I do not disguise the fact that I am opposed to this Bill. This measure will, however, give us the opportunity of turning our attention back to the question of land purchase, and I think those are figures we may very well revolve in our minds.

Turning to the clauses of the Bill, Clause 1 would schedule ten whole counties as congested district counties and would repeal the old definition. I do not dismiss that suggestion in its entirety. I think that after ten years experience there is a case for revising an artificial and conventional definition such as was embodied in the Act of 1891, and I also consider that after passing the Local Government Act and the Act establishing the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction something is to be said for arriving at more convenient areas. I am not, however, prepared to accept anything in the nature of so sweeping a change as that suggested in the schedule of the Bill. I go further, and say that although it is reasonable to consider some modification, or to see whether there is a case for some modification of the congested areas, I think it would be most inopportune to attempt it until further progress has been made in co-ordinating the operations of the Congested Districts Board with the new Department; many inconveniences might arise through having three bodies all trying to solve the same problems with separate staffs. Before I attempt to consider seriously a Bill of this nature I think the Government should be allowed time to see whether some more effective co-ordination cannot be arrived at. Respecting Sub-section 2 of Clause 1, to a certain extent it is possible for the Congested Districts Board to operate outside the scheduled areas. But I am prepared to consider whether some Amendment of the law in that direction is needed.

It is to Clause 2 that I take the greatest exception. It is rather odd that every speaker in the debate should say the Congested Districts Board is the one body which commands general approval, and then propose to completely revolutionise its constitution. The Board at present represents all the parties involved, they work with complete unanimity, and I fail to see how it will improve the Board in respect to purchase if you bring in the representatives of ten counties. To have ten councillors returned for three years, deciding whether to negotiate with this or that landlord, and all trying to push purchase in their own particular county, is not advisable. They might decide to spend the whole of their income upon piers or minor industries. As the Member for North Antrim has pointed out, the Board is a trustee of public money allocated to a certain purpose. Therefore they are not elected, although they are representative. They represent all the parties involved. The Government is represented, and that is rather important; the landlords and the tenants are represented, and the Land Commission is represented, and this also is rather important, because the Land Commission is the body we have to go to in order to get the loan. Will any hon. Member seriously say that you can improve upon a Board which, in respect of land purchase, consists of five or six members representing all the parties involved, by bringing in ten more councillors in order to help them in their negotiations? I dismiss that as not being a practical proposal.

As to the third clause, hon. Members know that I object to compulsory purchase on principle. But apart from that, in this case it would add to expense and to delay. My right hon. friend the Secretary for War complained the other day of the high prices he had to pay in Ireland under compulsory powers. If you have compulsory powers you must pay a compulsory price for the article, and that would lead to great delay. As matters are now, you have to arrive at a bargain with the landlord, and, so far as purchase by the Board is concerned, the thing was done. There has been no difficulty in respect to purchase from the landlord. There is this amount of legitimate compulsion, which exists in this and all other transactions of life, that people who let their opportunities slip by have to surrender those opportunities to those who are prepared to take them. In the congested districts there are so many landlords who are ready to sell and so many tenants who are ready to buy that all the Board's money is exhausted. Compulsion, therefore, will not add to our work. Where landlords are ready to sell and tenants are ready to give a fair price—and that is far more widely the case than hon. Members may suppose—where the tenants are ready to accept the scheme of instalments suggested for the benefit of them all; and, above all, where tenants refrain from those illegitimate methods which shake the faith on which all those transactions must rest—there is no difficulty in carrying on voluntary purchase in congested districts in Ireland.

MR. FLYNN asked if the Chief Secretary was aware of the resolution which the Board passed in 1895 and in 1897 regarding the use of the word "compulsory."

MR. WYNDHAM: I was not a member of the Board in 1895, but my answer would be that the Acts have given the Board power which enables them to make a fair offer to the landlord. I pass now to Clause 4 of the Bill. The disadvantage of having an elected Board would be in regard to purchasing estates, for if you want to buy an estate it is not a good plan to make that fact known to the owner, or to discuss it in this House. Clause 4 would break down the limit of the advance, but, as a Government, we have no great objection to that, for under the powers of the Act of 1899 the Treasury can dispense with that, and I may tell hon. Members from Ireland that we are in frequent communication with the Treasury, and the Treasury is most anxious to co-operate and to facilitate the operations of the Board in that direction. Clause 5, which relates to the advance of purchase money to be made immediately, I find it rather difficult to understand. It says—

> "Where the Board have agreed to purchase land, or have acquired land under this Act, the Land Commission shall advance the purchase money to the Board."

That has been taken to mean that the Land Commission is bound to advance money to one county at the expense of the other county. If it does mean that, I am quite sure that it ought to be rejected, but under any circumstances the clause is quite inoperative.

I must apologise to the House for having taken up so much of its time with very dry matter, but I thought the occasion was one which might be turned to good account. I am as anxious as any Irish hon. Member to accelerate the pace and increase the volume of land purchase in Ireland. We wish to create a settled peasant proprietary there on a sound footing. There are, I know, many difficulties in the way, and undoubtedly any such efforts will demand the time and attention of this House. Any such efforts would be rendered abortive by the application of any illegitimate pressure to make people surrender their land. When such pressure goes beyond the law it becomes a crime, but it is always a blunder, and the Congested Districts Board cannot make itself an accessory to that. That will not help land purchase in any way, even if any Department could assist in that direction. I have said all I have got to say upon this Bill. I know the intentions of the authors are good intentions, and I trust that means may be found to give effect to some of these proposals. But inasmuch as Clauses 1, 4 and 5 are unnecessary, inoperative or inopportune at a time when the Government has undertaken to amend the Land Purchase Acts; and as Clauses 2 and 3 make purchase compulsory, it is, in my opinion, inadmissible, and I must ask the House to vote against the Bill.

MR. T. M. HEALY: The right hon. Gentleman has accused the Irish Members of wasting the time of the House, and thus giving the Government no opportunity of carrying into effect those good intentions with which we are told their breasts are filled. When the Chief Secretary was asked whether those good intentions would fructify this session the right hon. Gentleman could only shake his head and say he could give no answer upon that point.

MR. WYNDHAM: I said that depended on others.

MR. T. M. HEALY: Yes, everything in Ireland depends on others. We get rulers in Ireland who have no power. That reminds me of Grattan's Parliament before Grattan, when all Irish Bills had to be passed over to England. What have we to-day? We have an Irish Bill brought in connected with the congested districts of Ireland, and a preconceived notion is come to by the British Privy Council. Without having heard a word of the arguments, and without a single Cabinet Minister taking his place upon the bench, they instruct the right hon, Gentleman beforehand to kill the Bill irrespective of any argument that may be adduced in ts favour. That is the method by which we are governed, and "it depends on others. In other words, the condition of Ireland depends not upon the Irish Secretary, but upon the state of mind of the Colonial Secretary free from the Transvaal.

MR. WYNDHAM: The hon. Member must not misrepresent me. I did not allude to members of the Cabinet, but to Members of the House. When I said that it depended on others I referred to the progress of business in this House. If there is no time for legislation, of course it is useless to bring in legislation.

MR. T. M. HEALY: I cannot see how taking up the time of the House after twelve o'clock can affect the legislation of the Government, and chucking out hon. Members by policemen is not stopping legislation. You have been feeding the dog with a bit of his own tail. We are told if we are good boys we shall have some sugar candy in the case of the Congested Districts Board. The right hon. Gentleman held up a volume of the Land Acts, and said practically, "Behold the concentrated benevolence of England." I wonder what size of a volume the Coercion Acts passed for Ireland would make. Why, the right hon. Gentleman could not lift them up with his two hands. The whole of those forty-one measures had been passed within the last twenty years, but who was to be thanked for their passing? There was one of those measures connected with the land which was known as Deasy's Act. It was a measure consisting of some eighty clauses which were run through this House without Amendment or debate, also through the House of Lords, and there was not a single representative to raise his voice on behalf of the tenant. If you turn to the schedule of the Act you will find that it repeals something like seventy Acts passed in the English Parliament mostly for the protection of the tenants. Before the passing of Deasy's Act there was some trouble in evicting tenants in Ireland, but that Act swept away all protection for the tenants. Between 1860 and 1870 we had one Act passed by Mr. Gladstone, and another in 1881. People are in the habit of sneering at Mr. Gladstone's Act of 1881, but I say, "Peace be to his ashes," because, but for him, not one single one of those forty measures would ever have been placed upon the Statute-book. Defective and deplorable as some of Mr. Gladstone's Acts may have been in their working, they are the root and foundation of whatever good land legislation has been passed from that day to this for Ireland. The right hon. Gentleman suggests that our scheme is a failure because we could not have any more money to distribute under the Act, but where are we to get money from? The fundamental rule of this House is that no private Member who is not a Privy Councillor or a Minister of the Crown can propose additions to the taxation of the country. If we had that power do you not think that we should exercise it, and do you not think that we should have provided for £10,000,000 or £15,000,000 in this Bill? I should be astonished at my own moderation if I did not include the whole cost of the Transvaal War. We do not give a single fraction to the Congested Districts Board by this Bill. The right hon. Gentleman forgets that the Land Commission has recently issued notices by advertisement in the Irish papers, and there is at least one county to which no more money can be advanced for land purchase, and the county is one of the richest in Ireland, namely Wexford. Is that not a terrible condemnation of the administration of this benevolent Congested Districts Board? I have before denounced that word "Congested" as blasphemy. It should not be called the Congested Districts Board but the "Cromwell" Districts Board. In 1885 we tried to do something for these glens of Antrim, but what did the Irish administration of the day do? If the glens of Antrim had been left politically alone they would have been able to return a Nationalist Member, but you cut them into two—one into North Antrim, and the other Mid Antrim—and so they really have no representation here at all. The right hon. Gentleman said that there was nobody to speak for the glens of Antrim in this House. I, for my part was glad to hear the right hon. Gentleman quote the figures which he did, and he must not suppose for a moment that we do not recognise, so far as he is personally concerned, that it is his powerlessness and not his will that is in question. I was glad to hear him say that of the £10,000,000 advanced under the Ashbourne Acts there was only a couple of thousand pounds in arrear, and a similar state of things under the Act of 1881. But what is the advantage of that to us when the right hon. Gentleman, instead of availing himself of this extraordinary proof of the probity of the Irish tenant, says that he can do nothing further on this question, because our attention is taken up by foreign matters? I am glad that the Irish tenants have at last got a vindicator in the British Treasury, which was the last quarter we should have expected it. We have been told that the Irish tenants were a dishonest and a profligate lot, but now when you are able to apply the test of official Returns you find that out of some £15,000,000 or £20,000,000 advanced to Irish tenents for land purchase there is only some £3,000 in arrear from one end of the country to the other.

The right hon. Gentleman has outlined one scheme which he says gives an indication of an improvement in the machinery of the Congested Districts Board. He says that they have arranged facilities for improving the breed of horses in Ireland. My opinion is that by teaching the Irish farmer and assisting him to breed hackney horses you are producing something which will not be a very marketable asset. It is the experience of all men who have had anything to do with horses that you do not get so much spirit and stamina in the hackney horses as you do in the old Irish breed. Therefore the only thing that can really be put to the credit of the Congested Districts Board is that they have destroyed the old stamina of Irish horses by introducing the hackney stallion. If the right hon. Gentleman intends to bring in a Bill he should state that fact to the House to night. I do not think there is on the part of Irish Members any intention whatever to obstruct any real beneficent measure, or any other public business which would have the effect of benefitting Ireland. But we are now in the month of March, and the Government have not yet tabled their measures for the session. We know nothing about their Bills. Let them say to us that if they get a fair amount of time to consider the business they will push on this Bill. Then they might give us a chance of improving it, and in that case we should be in a position to do business with them. We have been promised some beneficent measures, but why do the Government not table their measures? It is a mere farce simply to say that we shall prevent the Government bringing in such Bills, and it is very much like the suggestion that Irishmen are standing in their own light by this system of intimidation and illegality. I remain a firm believer in that illegality, because without it the Irish would never have got anything. It may be that the twentieth century is bringing the dawn of commonsense on the brains of English statesmen, and they are beginning to see that you can only deal with human beings as you can with any other breed of animals, by seeing what their pedigree is. If the history of Ireland has been all one way for 700 years, it is hard to ask me now to believe that the tiger has changed his stripes and the leopard his spots, and it is an extremely doubtful suggestion. The right hon. gentleman knows that some of these districts are a source of turmoil and agrarian crime, and let him give them some scintilla of a ray of hope. It is useless to say that Ulster does not benefit, for there are many other counties which will not benefit by this Bill, including my own constituency of Waterford. Our sympathies and consciences are not limited to the areas of the Congested Districts Board. If there is misery existing on the Western seaboard, it affects us just as much as misery on the other side. I am very sorry that this argument has been introduced, because hon. Gentlemen opposite will remember that when the improvement of a certain harbour came forward, we winked the other eye. We knew it was in the county of Down, but we gave it a railway and a pier for the benefit of the congested districts. We took up a similar attitude with regard to other districts. And we are just as sympathetic, irrespective of our religion and pedigree, with the misery of other counties as we are with the people in the west country. We are anxious to see Ireland prosperous as a whole, and I am sorry indeed to see the right. hon. Gentleman—when this Bill is put forward by us as a measure which we only ask him to take as a symbol of our good intentions—take his first opportunity as Irish Secretary, to ask the House to vote against what he practically admits is an abstract resolution, and he has done this without giving any promise on behalf of the Government that this refusal will be accompanied by any definite reform of this great and growing evil.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 163; Noes. 250. (Division List No. 64.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Allan, William (Gateshead)
Allen, Charles P (Glouc., Stroud
Ambrose, Robert
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn Herbert Henry

Barlow, John Emmott
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bell, Richard
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brand, Hon. Arthur G.
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles

Caine, William Sproston
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Carew, James Laurence
Carvill, Patrick Geo. Hamilton
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Clancy, John Joseph
Cogan, Denis J.
Colville, John
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter
Crean, Eugene
Cullinan, J.

Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Delany, William
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, James H.
Dunn, Sir William

Elibank, Master of
Emmott, Alfred

Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Furness, Sir Christopher

Gilhooly, James
Grant, Corrie

Haldane, Richard Burdon
Hammond, John
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harwood, George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
Healy, Timothy Michael
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Chas. H.
Holland, William Henry
Hope, John Deans (Fife, W.)

Jacoby, James Alfred
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, David Brynm'r (Swansea
Jones, William (Carnarvonshre
Jordon. Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael

Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennedy, Patrick James
Kinloch, Sir John George Smyth
Kitson, Sir James

Labouchere, Henry
Lambert, George
Langley, Batty
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leamy, Edmund
Leng, Sir John
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.

MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Govern, T.
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Laren, Charles Benjamin
Mellor, Rt. Hon. John William
Mooney, John J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morley, Charles (Breconshire)
Morley, Rt. Hn. John (Montrose
Moulton, John Fletcher
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, J.

Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)

Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien,Kendal(Tipper'ryMid
O'Connor,James(Wicklow,W.
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly,James(RoscommonN.
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Palmer,GeorgeWm.(Reading)
Partington, Oswald
Pickard, Benjamin
Pirie, Duncan V.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, Robert John
Priestley, Arthur
Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Redmond,John (E.Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Reid, SirR.Threshie(Dumfries
Rentoul, James Alexander
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roche, John
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scott Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
Sinclair,Capt. Jn. (Forfarshire
Smith,H.C(North'mbTynesde
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spear, John Ward
Stevenson, Francis S.
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas,Abel (Carmarthen,E.
Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
Tully, Jasper
Wallace, Robert
Walton, John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wason,Eugene (Clackmannan
Weir, James Galloway
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wilson,FredW.(NorfolkMid.)
Woodhouse,SirJT(Huddersf'd
Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Captain Donelan and Mr. Patrick O'Brien.

NOES.

Acland-Hood,Capt.SirAlex.F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Aird, Sir John
Allhusen, Augustus Hy. Eden
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther, H. T.
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John

Bagot,Capt.Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour,Rt.Hon.A.J.(Manch'r
Balfour,RtHnGeraldW.(Leeds
Balfour,MajK.R(Christchurch
Banbury, Frederick George
Barry,SirFrancisT.(Windsor)
Bartley, George C. T.
Beach,Rt.Hn.SirM.H(Bristol)
Bignold, Arthur
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Boulnois, Edmund
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles, Capt.H.F.(Middlesex
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brown,AlexanderH.(Shropsh.
Bull, William James
Bullard, Sir Harry
Burdett-Coutts, W.

Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain,Rt.Hon.J (Birm.
Chamberlain,JAusten(Worc'r
Charrington, Spencer
Coddington, Sir William
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb,SirJohnCharlesReady
Colston, Chas. Edw.H. Athole
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Cook, Frederick Lucas
Corbett,A.Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Cranborne, Viscount
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cross,Herb.Shepherd (Bolton)
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalkeith, Earl of
Davies,SirHoratioD(Chatham
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
Dorington, Sir John Edward
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford,SirWilliam Theodore
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Dyke,Rt.Hn.SirWilliamHart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Elliot, Hon.A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, George Denison
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes,Hon.AilwynEdward
Fergusson,Rt.Hn.SirJ(Manc'r
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald,SirRobertPenrose-
Fitzroy,Hon.EdwardAlgernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Garfit,William
Godson,SirAugustusFrederick
Gordon,Hn.J.E(Elgin&Nairn)
Gordon,MajEvans-(TrH'ml'ts
Gore, Hon. F. S. Ormsby-
Gorst, Rt. Hon.SirJohn Eldon
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Green,WalfordD.(Wednesb'ry
Greene,SirE.W. (Bury St. Ed.
Greene,HenryD.(Shrewsbury)
Gretton, John
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Groves, James Grimble
Gunter, Colonel
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hall, Edward Marshall
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton,RtHnLordG.(Mid'x
Hamilton,Marqof(L'nd'nd'rry
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Rbt. Wm.
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris,F.Leverton(Tynem'th)
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath,James (Staffords N.W.
Helder, Augustus
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hoare,EdwBrodie(Hampstead
Hobhouse,Henry (Somerset,E.
Hope,J. F. (Shef'ld,Brightside
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Horner, Frederick William
Hoult, Joseph
Howard,Cap.J(Kent,Faversh.
Howard,J. (Midd.,Tottenham
Hozier, Hon. James Henry C.
Jackson, Rt. Hn. Wm.Lawies
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Kennaway,Rt.Hn.SirJohn H.
Kenyon, Hn. Geo. T.(Denbigh
Kenyon, James (Lancs.,Bury)
Kenyon-Slaney,Col.W.(Salop.
Keswick, William
Kimber, Henry
Knowles, Lees
Lambton,Hon.Frederick Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawrence, William F.
Lawson, John Grant
Lecky, Rt. Hn. Wm. Edw. H.
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leighton, Stanley
Leveson-Gower,FrederickN.S.
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long,Col.CharlesW.Evesham
Long,RtHn.Walter(Bristol,S.
Lonsdale, John Browlee
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
Lucas,Col.Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas,ReginaldJ.(Portsmouth

Macdona, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (Edinburgh W
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Maple, Sir John Blundell
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell, Rt Hn Sir H E (Wigt'n
Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfriessh.
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
Middlemore, John Throgmor'n
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Milner, Rt. Hon. Sir F. G.
Milton, Viscount
Milward, Colonel Victor
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
More, R. J. (Shropshire)
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow)
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray, Rt Hn A Graham (Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Myers, William Henry
Nicol, Donald Ninian
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Parkes, Ebenezer
Peel, Hn. Wm Robert Wellesley
Penn, John
Percy, Earl
Pilkington, Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt. Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Charles T.
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alex.
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Saunderson, Rt. Hn. Col. E. J.
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seely, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
Stanley, Edw. Jas. (Somerset)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Stroyan, John
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir Wm. H.
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Welby, Lt-Col. A. C. E (Taunton
Wharton, Rt. Hn. John Lloyd
Whiteley, H. (Ashton u. Lyne
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Macartney and Mr. William Moore.

ULSTER CUSTOM BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order for Second Reading read.

MR. BANBURY (Camberwell, Peckham): I object.

MR. T. M. HEALY: May I ask if the hon. Member is objecting on behalf of the Government?

MR. BANBURY: I am objecting on my own behalf.

Second Reading deferred till to-morrow.

EDUCATION (LOCAL AUTHORITIES).

Bill for making better provision for the promotion by local authorities of education other than elementary education; and for other purposes, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Henry Hobhouse, Mr. Flower, Colonel Williams, Sir Francis Powell, Mr. Bill, and Mr. Lawrence.

EDUCATION (LOCAL AUTHORITIES) BILL.

"For making better provision for the promotion by local authorities of education other than elementary education; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Thursday, 18th April, and to be printed. [Bill 96.]

POLICE SUPERANNUATION (SCOTLAND) BILL.

The Select Committee on the Police Superannuation (Scotland) Bill was nominominated of, The Lord Advocate, Mr. George Brown, Mr. Caldwell, Mr. Colville, Earl of Dalkeith, Mr. J. A. Dewar, Dr. Farquharson, Mr. Maxwell, Sir Lewis M'Iver, Mr. Nicol, Mr. Parker Smith, Sir John Stirling-Maxwell, Mr. Stopford-Sackville, Mr. Tennant, and Mr. John Wilson (Falkirk).

Ordered, That the Committee have power to send for persons, papers, and records.

Ordered, That Five be the quorum.—(*Sir William Walrond.*)

PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE.

Second Report brought up, and read; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

Adjourned at a quarter before Six of the clock.

The asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Thursday, 14*th March*, 1901.

Several Lords took the Oath.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The Lord Chancellor acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with :

South Lancashire Tramways [H.L.].
Great Southern and Western Railway [H.L.].

The same were ordered to lie on the Table.

STRATTON AND BUDE GAS BILL [H.L.].

The Lord Chancellor informed the House that the Promoters do not intend to proceed further with the Bill: The Order made on Monday last discharged; ordered, that the Bill be not further proceeded with.

CHRIST'S HOSPITAL (LONDON) BILL [H.L.].

LEEDS CHURCHES BILL [H.L.].

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL BILL [H.L.].

GREAT SOUTHERN AND WESTERN RAILWAY BILL [H.L.].

Read 2^a (according to order).

PICCADILLY AND CITY RAILWAY BILL [H.L.].

Standing Order No. 92 considered (according to order) and dispensed with, with respect to a Petition of the Reverend John Fenwick Kitto: Leave given to present the said Petition.

BRISTOL, CLIFTON, AND WEST OF ENGLAND ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY BILL [H.L.].

ROYAL EXCHANGE ASSURANCE BILL [H.L.].

FAVERSHAM WATER BILL [H.L.].

SHEFFIELD DISTRICT RAILWAY BILL [H.L.].

NITRATE RAILWAYS COMPANY BILL [H.L.].

Committed.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE GAS BILL [H.L.].

WISBECH WATER BILL [H.L.].

OMAGH GAS BILL [H.L.].

CARDIFF RAILWAY BILL [H.L.].

Committed. The Committees to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

DOVER CORPORATION BILL [H.L.].

POULTON-LE-FYLDE GAS BILL [H.L.].

PRESTATYN WATER BILL [H.L.].

SALFORD CORPORATION BILL [H.L.].

SHEFFIELD CORPORATION BILL [H.L.].

SHIELDS BRIDGE BILL [H.L.].

OMAGH GAS BILL [H.L.].

Report from the Committee of Selection, That the following Lords be proposed to the House to form the Select Committee for the consideration of the said Bills—viz. :

E. Lathom,
V. Falmouth,
L. Sinclair,
L. Newton (chairman),
L. Muncaster ;

agreed to; and the said Lords appointed accordingly. The Committee to meet on Tuesday next, at Eleven o'clock; and all petitions referred to the Committee, with leave to the petitioners praying to be heard by counsel against the Bills to be heard as desired, as also counsel for the Bill.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

NAVY.

Report of the Committee appointed by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to inquire into and report on the training and examination of Junior Naval Officers; with the circular announcing the changes to the Fleet.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Code of Regulations for Day Schools for 1901; with schedules and appendices.

REFORMATORY AND INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS (GREAT BRITAIN).

Forty-fourth Report for the year 1900, of the Inspector of Reformatory and Industrial Schools. Part I. List of Schools and Detailed Reports.

MINES (COURRIERES COLLIERIES).

Report to the Secretary of State for the Home Department by four of His Majesty's Inspectors of Mines, on the methods of preventing falls of roof adopted at Courrières Collieries, Department of the Pas-de-Calais, France.

CHURCH ESTATES COMMISSION.

Fiftieth Report from the Church Estates Commission, for the year preceding 1st March, 1901.

CYPRUS.

Report for 1899-1900.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL).

No. 2561. Western Pacific (Samoa).

IRISH LAND COMMISSION (PROCEEDINGS).

Return during the month of November, 1900.

Presented (by command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

SUPERANNUATION.

Treasury Minute, dated 7th January, 1901, granting a retired allowance to Mr. E. A. de Wiele, Admiralty Writer, under Section 2 of the Act.

LUNACY (SCOTLAND).

Rules for the engineer and the plumber of the Inverness District Asylum.

BANKRUPTCY COURTS (IRELAND).

Returns of the Official Assignees of the Court of Bankruptcy in Ireland and the local courts, Belfast and Cork, for the year 1900.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

PETITION.

INTOXICATING LIQUORS.

Petition against the sale of, to children under sixteen years of age; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

LICENSING SESSIONS BILL [H.L.].

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF WINCHESTER: My Lords, in asking your Lordships to give a Second Reading to a Bill of a studiously modest and unpretentious character, I think I may at least claim to be endeavouring to carry out the advice tendered to us by the noble Marquess the Prime Minister last year. It may be in the recollection of the House that in May last† I proposed a resolution—I admit, of a rather far-reaching character—declaring in general terms that it was desirable that legislative effect should be given to the recommendations which that large and representative body who formed the Royal Commission had unanimously agreed upon as desirable. I spoke then, I am afraid, at undue length, but obviously with insufficient clearness. I was merely suggesting that legislation upon those lines was desirable, but I was understood by the noble Marquess to suggest that we should pitchfork on to the Statute-book a large number of perfectly crude and undigested recommendations. Such was not my intention, but if I expressed myself in terms open to such a construction I do not complain of having been met by a request that we should at least put into a practical form—in the form of Bills—some of those many recommendations which appear to have the imprimatur of the whole Commission upon them. We did not meet with a welcome reception on that occasion, but the treatment we received was perhaps due to a misunderstanding of the intention which those for whom I speak have in view.

Our desire is to secure that some practical effect should be given to the large amount of persistent, self-denying labour which was devoted by really competent men for many years to this large and complicated subject. We were invited last year to put down in black and white the reforms we desire to see carried out: and I propose to ask your Lordships to give a Second Reading to this Bill, and afterwards to two others, each embodying one or two points at the most on which there is practical unanimity of opinion on the part of those who formed the Royal Commission. But in order to be quite clear I ought to say that I adhere distinctly to the view I have previously expressed, that the matter, as a whole, cannot be adequately dealt with by any other authority than His Majesty's Government. The subject is far beyond the powers of any individual member of either House of Parliament. Only with the information and the materials possessed by the Home Office, and with the authority of the Government behind them, can such reforms as are necessary be carried into law. We still cherish the hope that ultimately the Government will take the desired reforms in hand and carry them out successfully. If these little Bills with which I am concerned could be absorbed in some larger measure proposed by the Government, with the firm determination of carrying it through Parliament, no one would rejoice more than I would. Of course, I do not forget that in the King's Speech at the opening of the present session there were words which held out to us a somewhat nebulous and shadowy hope of legislation on this subject before the end of the Parliamentary year; still less do I forget the sympathetic speech which was delivered by the Home Secretary in another place, in which he gave his imprimatur to some, at least, of the proposals I am going to ask your Lordships to accept. The fact that he did so leads me to hope that we may possibly have saved the Home Office some little trouble by paving the way, and I shall be very glad to step aside and to abdicate my own paternity if the Home Office will make themselves responsible for these proposals.

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† See *The Parliamentary Debates* [Fourth Series], Vol. lxxxii., page 1004.

The Bill which I am now asking your Lordships to read a second time contains three practical points. Two have reference to the qualifications or disqualifications of the members of the licensing authority, and the third relates to the date when the brewster sessions are ordinarily held. As the law stands, a justice of the peace is disqualified from adjudicating on licensing matters if he is shown to have an interest in the trade in the district for which he is a magistrate. Strictly interpreted, this disqualification has been found to go further than was ever intended by those who were in the first instance responsible for imposing it. We have evidence of the difficulty which has arisen in different parts of England from the fact that shareholders in railway companies—which, as an infinitesimal part of their business, own refreshment rooms—are thereby disqualified from voting on licensing questions. The matter was very prominently brought forward some years ago when the stipendiary magistrate at Leeds, regarding himself as disqualified in this way, submitted the question to the Home Office. The Law Officers of the Crown were consulted, and they decided that, inasmuch as the Leeds stipendiary magistrate held, as trustee, a few shares in the Midland Railway, he was disqualified from sitting on the licensing committee of which he was chairman. So many magistrates in Leeds were similarly disqualified that the clerk to the justices has stated in evidence that he had sometimes to send all over the town to find a magistrate who could sit in licensing matters. The difficulty has universally been felt to be quite unnecessary, the disqualification in question lying wholly outside the intention of those who originally imposed it. Every member of the Royal Commission, with absolute unanimity, desired to see this disqualification removed, and one of the proposals of this Bill is that it should cease. An interest in the liquor trade is certainly rather remote which turns upon the fact that a man holds a few railway shares and that the railway company owns somewhere a few refreshment rooms.

The other branch of the subject is a good deal more important. It seems that, while a man who holds a few shares in a railway company, even if it be only as trustee, is disqualified, others who are actively concerned in the administration of the licensing laws are not disqualified, but in the opinion of the Royal Commission should be. One set of men to whom I refer are those who belong to Watch Committees in boroughs; the other set of men are those who occupy the responsible position of magistrates' clerks. Watch Committees in boroughs are constituted under the Act of 1882. That Act provides that every borough council must appoint a Watch Committee consisting of not more than one-third of its own members, and that to the Watch Committee so appointed shall be entrusted the control and government of the police of the borough. The Watch Committee has an absolute right, specifically given in the Act, of suspending or dismissing police, and the police, of course, recognise throughout that they are dependent entirely on the good will of the Watch Committee under whom their whole work is carried on. There is a difference of custom in various parts of England as to how far the Watch Committees interfere actively with the prosecutions undertaken by the police; but in all cases the police are under the control of the Watch Committees, who have the power of suspending or dismissing them for inefficiency or for inadequate discharge of duty. Some of the members of these Committees are connected with the liquor trade, but no disqualification is placed on them in consequence. The evidence that was before the Royal Commission on the subject was wide and far-reaching. It is perfectly certain that it has been felt, the land through, that in these boroughs there is, to say the least, a grave peril that the police may discharge their duties in a very different way from that in which they would otherwise discharge them when they know that on the Watch Committee are members whose houses would be impugned if prosecutions were carried out.

I must trouble your Lordships for a few moments with one or two examples of evidence given on this point. I will choose towns in different parts of England. Take the boroughs of Leeds, Nottingham, Wakefield, Derby, and Portsmouth. With regard to Leeds the Watch Committee appoints a discipline sub-committee whose special duty it is to look after the police. A brewer—I am quoting from the evidence—is chairman of that sub-committee, and in that capacity naturally has more to do than any other single man with the punishment and advancement of the police and with the conduct of the force, from the Chief Constable downwards.

> "His firm [I am quoting the words of the witness] own a large number of licensed houses in the city and have other interests as mortgagees. The knowledge of his position cannot but hamper the action of the police. I do not put it any higher than that."

As to Nottingham, the coroner of the borough said—

> "The police are very prone to keep a 'blind eye' upon houses belonging to the brewers who are members of the Watch Committee."

The Chief Constable of Wakefield said that if he had suspicions regarding certain houses, and were to mention to the Watch Committee that he thought of instituting a prosecution, the whole thing would (to quote his words) be "all over the town" before he had time to prepare his evidence. At Derby the chairman of the Watch Committee owns four licensed houses. The committee has two other trade members, and one other member is a brewery director, while out of its eleven members four are justices. In Portsmouth there are seventeen members of the Watch Committee, and five of the seventeen are directly or indirectly interested in the trade. I could easily multiply evidence of that kind. These facts were given in evidence taken a year or two ago, and possibly since then alterations may have taken place. Now, my Lords, it is of course conceivable that the members of Watch Committees may be in every case able to dismiss all bias. It is possible, though I think it is even less likely, that the police may believe that there is no such bias on the part of their masters, and may be prepared to take firm and definite action against houses which are actually owned by persons under whom they are acting. But that is expecting a good deal; and the Commission were practically unanimous in recommending that no man should serve on a Watch Committee who had the same kind of interest in the liquor trade as would have disqualified him from sitting as a justice. In the memorial circulated by the Trade Association to your Lordships' House attention is called to this matter, and it is pointed out that, whereas a justice who is connected with the local trade is disqualified merely from acting in licensing cases, this Bill would disqualify a licensed trader from sitting upon a Watch Committee at all. That is perfectly true, but if we are to do what the Commission asks, it is inevitable. What we object to is the placing of the police under the direct control of members of the brewing interest, knowing that it must inevitably, as one witness after another has said, lead them to "turn a blind eye" upon the delinquencies of public-houses.

The disqualification of magistrates' clerks is the next branch of the subject. I suppose there is no body of men in the kingdom who are more rightly respected than magistrates' clerks. Their position is one of very high responsibility, from the advice that they have frequently to give to magistrates who are not themselves qualified to know all the intricacies of the law. It is clear that a justices' clerk, who is in any way connected with the liquor trade is exposed to a very real, I will not say temptation to, but imputation of, bias when the case of a firm with which he is professionally connected comes before the body which he is called upon to advise. It is sometimes said that, after all, magistrates' clerks have only to advise on questions of strict law, and that they have not the opportunity of introducing any bias. But I should like on that point to call attention to the evidence which was given by Mr. George Candy, Q.C., the eminent counsel, who had a unique position in this matter, being accustomed, as your Lordships know, to hold a brief time after time, all over England, on behalf of Licensed Victuallers' Associations. In his evidence he speaks emphatically of the influence of the justices' clerk as paramount in cases which come before the justices. He says—

> "I have taken the view generally that the Court is guided by the legal adviser, and I have found it answer."

The inference is obvious. It may be asked, Do magistrates' clerks, as a rule, have an interest in the liquor trade? A few days ago I had an opportunity of talking to two prominent solicitors, each with a large country practice, and neither of them particularly interested in Temperance reform. One of them said in the strongest terms, and the other in a somewhat less definite form—

> "I should always advise any client of mine who was largely interested in the liquor trade to place some, at least, of his business with the clerks to the justices. It is well he should do so, and it is practically the universal custom."

I will not, however, rest on anonymous testimony of that sort, but will give one or two examples which were before the Royal Commission. It was stated in evidence that—

> "The clerk to the magistrates of Maidstone is the solicitor to a brewery and acts for that brewery in the adjoining division, while the clerk to the magistrates of that adjoining division is solicitor to another brewery, and he acts in Maidstone for his brewery."

I think it would be difficult to imagine anything more likely to raise suspicion as to the impartiality of the advice given by the magistrates' clerks than evidence of that kind. A Burnley solicitor gave evidence as to a Burnley justices' clerk, who appeared as solicitor for Burnley brewers in adjoining districts, and then, at other times, sat in Burnley and advised the justices when the Burnley cases of the same brewers came before them. With regard to Brighton, a solicitor practising there—Mr. H. Prince—said:

> "I have seen magistrates' clerks at one Bench instructing counsel for a licence or opposing a licence, as the case may be, or applying, and I have seen the same magistrates' clerk sitting at his own Bench when relatives of the same magistrates' clerk are applying at that Bench, of which he is magistrates' clerk, in the same way. I think that is liable to create a wrong impression."

I think so too; and I ask your Lordships to give effect to a provision which will render that impression less likely, at all events, to arise. In an ideal state of things, what everyone would desire woud be that a justices' clerk should have no private practice at all. In our large boroughs that is very frequently the case. In country districts, of course, it is practically impossible so to arrange, if we are to secure the services of the best men as magistrates' clerks; but, in the interest of the public, we ought to secure that justices should not find themselves in the position of having to be guided by the advice of clerks in regard to cases in which those clerks have a constant professional interest. I therefore ask that this provision of the Bill may become law. The wording of the clause is obviously a difficult matter. I do not in the least profess to say that the best conceivable wording has been arrived at. On that point I am quite prepared to accept any reasonable Amendment which may be proposed by those who, from legal or other knowledge, are better able to judge what should be its right form, and I hope we may rely upon the assistance of the high legal luminaries who adorn your Lordships' House. I ought, I think, just to add that so obviously necessary is this reform with regard to magistrates' clerks, that in the memorial circulated yesterday by the Trade no attempt is made to object to this proposal, and I venture to hope that it is a point upon which the whole House will be with me.

The only remaining point is the question of the date of the licensing sessions. It is a curious fact that no one seems able to explain why the Act of 1828 provided that the licensing sessions for Surrey and Middlesex should be held in March, and the licensing sessions for the rest of England in August and September. The evidence before the Commission on this point was not very large, but it was sufficient to convince the whole Commission that a change would be desirable, and that the licensing sessions throughout England should be held in March. It had been found practically impossible in some cases to obtain attendance at the autumn sessions. I will quote the case of Nottingham. The clerk to the Nottingham borough justices said—

> "I think everyone will agree with me that the period of holding the annual licensing sessions is most inconvenient. By law we are bound to hold the first sessions between the 20th of August and the 14th September, and the adjourned sessions during the month of September. My experience is that during August and the first half of September it is almost impossible to get business carried through, and that is becoming more so every year."

I hope that this change will be allowed to be made by the present Bill. I desire to say again in conclusion that what I now ask for is merely a Second Reading. I desire the House to affirm the principle of the Bill, but I am perfectly ready to listen to, and, if possible, accept any Amendments in regard to the details of this and the other Bill for which I am to-night responsible. That something of the kind is urgently wanted is now beyond dispute. A Bishop whose duties lead him to be constantly moving about over a wide area is better able perhaps than some other man to judge of popular opinion on such a question, Wherever I go I find a feeling that some legislation of this kind is imperatively necessary, and will not brook delay; and I venture to hope that the Bill will meet with no opposition at your Lordships' hands.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2^a."—(*The Lord Bishop of Winchester.*)

LORD BELPER: My Lords, I am sure no one in your Lordships' House will take any exception either to the tone of the right rev. Prelate's speech or to his description of the Bill as a modest and unpretending one. The Bill, as he stated, is confined to three proposals. With the first proposal, which deals with the disqualification of magistrates owing to their holding railway shares, your Lordships are thoroughly conversant. This disqualification has caused the greatest inconvenience in all parts of the country, and two or three years ago a measure removing the disqualification passed your Lordships' House with general approval. The proposal to alter the date of the licensing sessions is one which will probably meet with an equally unanimous reception. It is impossible to conceive the reason why anyone could have fixed on a time of the year so inconvenient as August and September, when so many business men are away on their holidays.

As to the second clause, which imposes fresh disqualifications, the right rev. Prelate must excuse me if I decline to enter into the question in detail; but, though this is one of the points recommended by both the Majority and Minority Reports, I do not think that the recommendations of the Commission go quite so far as the proposals in the clause. The right rev. Prelate himself pointed out that whilst magistrates were only disqualified from sitting on licensing matters, this clause would altogether disqualify those gentlemen from serving on watch committees. The clause would also prevent the appointment of a gentleman who might be highly qualified as clerk of the peace or clerk to the justices if he were in any way connected with a brewery, or even had a partner who was employed in a brewery in any capacity. The clause will certainly require serious consideration in Committee. With regard to the general principles embodied in the Bill, I am instructed by the Home Secretary to give his general assent to the Second Reading of the Bill. My right hon. friend wishes me to state that he is anxious to deal with these points, which are practically of a non-contentious character, in a reasonable and practical way. But the position is this: the Home Secretary has now in preparation a Bill to deal with these very matters which are the subject of this and the succeeding Bill, and he hopes to find an opportunity of introducing it in the other House; and, if he can do that, it will, I think, be seen that his proposals not only deal with most of the points raised in these Bills, but will also be somewhat wider in their scope, so as to include some points not touched in the measure before the House.

Under these circumstances, the question is how far it would be desirable for the Government to move Amendments to these Bills in this House. I think it would possibly be more convenient for the Government to be able to explain their own proposals in the other House, and to deal with the whole subject when the right rev. Prelate's Bills reach the House of Commons, if their own Bill is then in a position to be discussed. As I have already said, some Amendments will be required; and if, therefore, the Government put no Amendments on the Paper in this House, they reserve full power to deal with the Bill in another

EARL SPENCER: My Lords, I think I may congratulate the right rev. Prelate on the step in advance which he has made by the introduction of this Bill. We all deeply regretted the *non possumus* given last year by the noble Marquess opposite to the general proposal that this matter should be dealt with.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND LORD PRIVY SEAL (The Marquess of SALISBURY): Not this particular Bill.

EARL SPENCER: The right rev. Prelate did not introduce a Bill last year, but he proposed a general resolution that legislation was desirable on the lines of the able Report of the Royal Commission. This year we have gone a step in advance, and I think that everybody who has at heart the necessity of dealing with the gigantic subject must rejoice that at all events we have got the Government's consent to the Second Reading of this Bill, small though it may be. As to the Government proposals, a great deal will depend upon when the Government Bill is introduced. Probably, if it is soon introduced, it would be to the advantage of reform in this question if the right rev. Prelate postponed the consideration of his measure in Committee, but if the Government Bill is not to be introduced for a very long time, the only course will be for the right rev. Prelate to press on his Bill.

On Question, agreed to. Bill read 2^a accordingly, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Thursday next.

HABITUAL DRUNKARDS BILL [H.L.].

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF WINCHESTER: I shall not detain your Lordships many minutes in moving the Second Reading of this Bill, especially after the kindly reception which has been given by His Majesty's Government to the Bill, which has just been read a second time, and which, I understand, will be extended to the two other Bills for which I have made myself responsible.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: What the noble Lord who spoke for the Government said was, that no opposition would be offered to the two Bills on the Paper to-day. The right rev. Prelate is extending that admission to a Bill which is to come on next week. I cannot promise so much.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF WINCHESTER: I am thankful for small mercies, and am grateful to the noble Marquess for setting me right. What is known as the formation of a black list has been advocated outside Parliamentary Commissions and outside Parliament for a long time, and it received what I am bound to say was to me a surprising amount of support from practically the whole body of the recent Royal Commissioners. It is perfectly obvious that such a proposal is fraught with certain patent difficulties. The proposal, roughly, is that any man who has been convicted three times during the course of one year, or nine times in all, of certain specified offences scheduled in the Inebriates Act of 1898 may—not must—be placed by the court upon a black list, and a penalty will fall upon anyone who serves a man so placed on the black list with intoxicating liquor, and a penalty will fall upon himself if he endeavours to obtain it. The difficulty in the case of large towns is constantly brought forward, and it is objected that identification would be impossible, and that a man would only have to walk a quarter of a mile in order to obtain the liquor. That is perfectly true; but there are many places besides large towns, and there would not be the smallest difficulty in small towns and country districts. By another provision of the Bill habitual drunkenness comes under the definition of cruelty, and enables a wife to claim judicial separation from a drunken husband. Another provision makes it an offence for a drunken person to be found in charge of a child in a public-house or in a public place. These proposals obtained the approval of the representatives of what may be called "the trade" on the Royal Commission, and I trust that your Lordships will see your way to pass them in due time into law. Indeed, there is nothing in the Bill that has not been agreed to by both the majority and the minority on the Royal Commission. I ask your Lordships to give the Bill a second reading.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2^a."—(*The Lord Bishop of Winchester.*)

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: I can only say that so far as this Bill is concerned I am entirely in sympathy with the right rev. Prelate, and I hope that either he or the Government may be successful in passing such a Bill during the present session. It appears to me that, though this is not a very large Bill in itself, it is important as marking a different object on the part of temperance advocates from that which they usually adopt. In this case it is desired to promote temperance by legislation which is punitive as regards those who are guilty of intemperance. That is a perfectly legitimate action for Parliament to take, and I confess, without making any pledge on the subject, that I should be inclined to go even a step further than the right rev. Prelate. But the difference between this legislation and that of which we most ordinarily hear is that in this case the powers of the law are directed against those who commit the offence of intemperance, whereas what is ordinarily called temperance legislation goes in the direction of diminishing the opportunities for obtaining intoxicating liquor, and is directed equally against the person who is himself guilty of intemperance and against the very large body of innocent consumers who have no intention of committing intemperance, but who are restricted in their natural liberty by the desire of the temperance reformers to deal with inebriate persons. That seems to me unjust. The innocent consumption by temperate consumers of that which is not an illegal indulgence is not a liberty which it is right for Parliament to restrict, unless they are driven by some very supreme consideration to do so. It is not the line upon which I think temperance reform ought to work. It would be irregular and inconvenient to enter into a discussion now. I only wish to draw as strongly as I can a distinction between that legislation which punishes only intemperate men and that legislation which, desiring to punish and hinder the intemperate man, also grievously affects the temperate consumer. I earnestly hope that the right rev. Prelate may have full success in the line which he is at present pursuing, and that the success of that line way induce him to abstain from the other sort of legislation.

On Question agreed to; Bill read 2*a*, accordingly, and committed to a Committee of the whole House on Thursday next.

INDIA—FOOD SUPPLY—REVENUE COLLECTION—FINANCE AND CURRENCY.

LORD SANDHURST: My Lords, I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for India if he can give any information as to scarcity prevailing in some parts of India; and whether the stability of the rupee has yet had any effect in aiding the introduction of capital in India. Perhaps the noble Earl could also inform me whether or not an inquiry is now being held in Gujarat as to the way in which the assessment is collected by certain natives. I understand there was an intention of holding such an inquiry, certain serious allegations having been made. I should also like to know whether the noble Earl considers that the food supply of India is sufficient. That was the opinion held up to a year ago, but the continued scarcity which has prevailed may possibly have caused other conclusions to be arrived at. With regard to my question, whether the stability of the rupee has yet had any effect in aiding the introduction of capital into India, I am not quite certain if sufficient time has elapsed to enable any definite opinion to be at the disposal of the noble Earl; but in view of the immense importance of the question from an economic standpoint any statement which the noble Earl can lay before the House will be received with considerable interest.

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (The Earl of HARDWICKE): The noble Lord asked me whether I could give him any information with regard to certain charges that have been made against subordinate revenue officers at Gujarat, and whether an inquiry is being held. I can inform the noble Lord that an inquiry is taking place, but we have no official information as to what has transpired during the inquiry. The only information we have is the information gathered from the Indian press. In a few weeks that inquiry will, no doubt, be concluded, and we shall then have official information on the subject. The noble Lord asked whether experience has shown that India is in a position to produce sufficient food to feed her inhabitants. That is, of course, a big question, and it would occupy considerable time if I were to explain all the intricate matters connected with it; but, generally speaking, the experience of last year has shown that India, even in time of famine, can produce sufficient food to feed her people. In spite of the fact that more than a quarter—probably a third—of the food supply failed, the loss financially being estimated at £50,000,000, yet by railway communication even the districts that were absolutely without crops were able to be supplied with food. I may mention in this connection that America sent four ships containing wheat to Calcutta in December, 1899. Two cargoes were disposed of, but the other two ships had to leave Calcutta and go to South Africa to dispose of their cargoes. I think that shows pretty clearly that sufficient food was available in India if it could only be conveyed to the districts where it was required.

The latest information regarding the food supplies and harvest prospects of the country is contained in the following telegram, which was received yesterday from the Viceroy—

> "In Burma, Bengal, North-West Provinces, Punjab, full average out-turn of rice and other autumn crops has been obtained, and, notwithstanding damage caused by rain and blight, an average spring crop is expected there. Population 150,000,000; food grain area 120,000,000 acres. In Madras, harvest all round below the average by about 20 per cent. Population 36,000,000; food grain area 28,000,000 acres. In Bombay, Central Provinces, and Berar with population 31,000,000 and food grain area 38,000,000 acres, autumn harvest was poor, and area sown below the average. Spring crops prospects are disappointing in Central Provinces and Berar, and bad in large portion of Bombay. Prospects fair to good in Mysore, Central India, and Rajputana, with population 27,000,000; poor in Baroda and in great part of Hyderabad and Bombay States, with population 22,000,000. We anticipate that Burma, Bengal, and Upper India will have surplus food for those provinces and states where crops are poor. Prices of wheat and other spring grains are high, especially in Bombay and Central Provinces, and it is possible that they may not fall much until next rains. Maize and millets are locally cheap in Upper India and also in Gujarat, and in part of Central Provinces. The food stocks of the country are believed to be smaller than usual, but will be replenished by coming harvest."

With regard to the latter part of the noble Lord's question—namely, whether the stabliity of the rupee has yet had any effect in aiding the introduction of capital into India—I do not wish to anticipate the figures of the annual financial statement which will be submitted to the Viceroy's Council next week; but I may state generally that one of the most important results of the steadiness in the price of the rupee—it has not been lower for some time than 1s. 3⅞d., and has constantly been at 1s. 4d.—has been to retain capital in, and to attract capital to, India. A few years ago great anxiety and uncertainty prevailed, and dividends, earnings, and savings were hurriedly remitted to England in the fear of a further decline in the value of the rupee. That state of uncertainty, I am glad to say, is now over, and people are not afraid to remit money to India to their friends and relations, feeling secure, as they do, that there is no fear of any material fall in the price of the rupee. There has been an increase, too, during the last few years in the number of factories, the hands employed, and in the capital invested in the country. Then, again, there has been a large addition to the fleet of ships which trades between this country and India, which is, I think, an indication that capital must have gone to India.

But the most striking and significant sign of the confidence that has been re-established in the financial system of India is to be observed in the railway statistics. In 1893 the capital invested in Indian railways was 155 millions; in 1900 it had amounted to 200 millions. During those seven years the mileage had increased from 17,200 to 24,600 miles, or an average of 1,000 miles a year. The first Indian railway was opened in 1853, and the railway revenue accounts for 1899–1900 showed for the first time during these forty-seven years a net profit of £76,000. That is in no sense a paper profit; but is arrived at after allowing four per cent. interest on all capital expenditure during all these years. I believe the returns for 1900–1 will show a similar increase. If the noble Lord has any fears as to the influx of capital into India, I believe those fears are groundless. I think, if India is only spared the burden of plague and famine, that in the near future there is every prospect that she will enter on a new era of commercial prosperity.

Lord SANDHURST: I am very much obliged to the noble Earl for the information he has given us. But I would like to ask one further question, namely, whether in Gujarat the cattle have suffered so severely as is rumoured? I saw it reported that about seventy per cent. of the cattle were dead.

The Earl of HARDWICKE: I regret that I have no information with regard to cattle.

House adjourned at twenty minutes before Six of the clock, till To-morrow, half-past Ten of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Thursday, 14*th March*, 1901.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

RHYL BRIDGE BILL. (By Order.)

Order for Second Reading read, and discharged.

Bill withdrawn.

GAS LIGHT AND COKE COMPANY BILL. (By Order.)

Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Mr. LOUGH (Islington, W.) said this Bill was one which was familiar to the last Parliament. It dealt with the great London monopoly, with regard to which very serious complaint was made by those who suffered from it. Not only had London local authorities, but Parliament itself had had to investigate the affairs of this company. A Committee of that House in 1899 made certain recommendations which were to be carried out before any more capital was to be granted, and yet none of those recommendations had been carried out in the Bill now before them, although they had been accepted by the South Metropolitan Company. The Gas Light and Coke Company, although it had the best area in the world for selling gas, charged 3s. 5d. per 1,000 feet of gas, as against 2s. 8d. charged by the South Metropolitan Company, and each extra penny represented a charge of £80,000 a year on the people of London. Thus a single company, by this extra charge, levied a tax of three-quarters of a million sterling on the residents of a portion of the Metropolis. He proposed to move the rejection of the Bill, and although it might be suggested it was necessary to pass it in order to enable the company to get the capital they required to carry on their undertaking, he thought he would be able to prove that there was no immediate necessity for this Bill at all. The Bill sought to find further capital for the company, which only required £200,000 of capital each year to carry on its undertaking. But the last balance-sheet, published three months ago, showed there was a balance of nearly £700,000 to the company's credit. Therefore it clearly had enough capital to enable it to go on for two or three years. Again, the company had got the permission of that House to issue £280,000 of capital—a permission of which it had not yet availed itself. Moreover, a Bill had recently passed through the House, one of whose objects was to enable this company to sell to the South Metropolitan Company a large area which it had on the south side of the river. This transaction could be completed in a moment, and it would put the Gas Light and Coke Company in possession of £900,000 of capital without incurring any additional charge for interest whatever. Therefore it was plain that the company could get the money it required without pressing through this Bill. The company had circulated among hon. Members a Paper in favour of the Bill which, he was sorry to say, was a very disingenuous document. It was said, in the first place, that a similar Bill had been read a second time two years ago, but it did not add that it was rejected by a Committee of the House of Lords. Moreover, the Bill of last year was rejected by a Committee of the House of Commons. Yet now they were asked to put the authorities of London to the trouble of again opposing a Bill which was precisely the same in essential matters. This Bill was opposed by the Corporation of the City of London, by the London County Council, and by all the local authorities in the area affected. They were unanimous in asking the House not to pass the Bill until the company, in accordance with the recommendations of Parliament, had put its house in order. It was almost incredible that a private trading company should prove itself so recalcitrant, and so utterly disregard the opinions arrived at by the House after most careful deliberation. The Gas Light and Coke Company had given the House more trouble than any other private trading company in the country. As an instance of the hardship occasioned by the high price charged for gas, he would like to point to the penny-in-the-slot meters, of which there were now some 200,000 in London, and for which, under the *regime* of this company, the poor had to pay on the average £2 16s. a year. If gas were supplied by the company at a fair price, as it was on the south side of the river, there would be a saving to these poor people of between 16s. and 18s. a year, which would constitute a very important addition to the fund for feeding and clothing the children. All classes of the community in London were vitally affected by this Bill, and he therefore asked the House to reject it.

MR. ALBAN GIBBS (City of London) seconded the motion for the rejection of the Bill. He was, he said, happy for once to find himself in complete agreement with the hon. Member opposite, and with the action of the County Council. The only attempt in the Bill to meet the recommendations of that House was in the redemption clause, and he was sure the House would agree that that clause was utterly perfunctory and insufficient. The Committee recommended that before any further power was given to the company to issue fresh capital, the sliding scale should be reduced. But the company had made no effort whatever to do that, and he therefore hoped that the House, without troubling a Select Committee for the third time, would reject the Bill.

Amendment proposed—

> "To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day six months.'"—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

MR. CRIPPS (Lancashire, Stretford) urged that, as a matter of business, there was no reason why this Bill should not be read a second time, in order that it might be properly discussed by a Committee upstairs. It was undoubtedly the fact that the company wanted fresh capital, and it was in the interest of all parties that that capital should be raised in the most inexpensive way. The reason why two years ago a Bill was thrown out by a Committee of the House of Lords was because the time was inopportune, for Sir James Rankin's Committee had not then issued its

Report. The second Bill was thrown out because its terms were not in accordance with the recommendations of Sir James Rankin's Committee. Last year power was asked to issue two and a half millions of capital, but in this Bill the capital asked for had been reduced to a million, in order to comply with the recommendations of Sir James Rankin's Committee. It was the intention of the company also to comply with the recommendations of that Committee in regard to the redemption clause, and the Committee upstairs could see that that was done. The question as to slot meters could likewise be more effectively dealt with by a Committee upstairs. What reason was there why this Bill should not have its Second Reading? Full opportunities would be given of discussing all these objections before an impartial tribunal in the Committee upstairs. He thought that on these grounds ordinary business principles ought to be extended to the present case, and he hoped the House would adopt the Second Reading.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON (Tower Hamlets, Poplar) thought this measure was one of the most impudent proposals he had heard for many years. This question had already been before Committees of this House and the other House, who had made recommendations upon the subject, and yet this was identically the same Bill, and contained exactly those provisions which both this and the other House had decided against. The hon. Member for Stretford contended that this was a different Bill, but in the circular issued by the company they did not themselves claim that more than one out of five of the recommendations of the Committees had been carried out. It was said that the company were now asking for a capital of £1,000,000 instead of the £2,500,000 previously applied for. But it was quite obvious that under the proposals of the company the money would last them for a much longer period than that which had been stated. Under the Bill passed by this House they were going to sell to the South Metropolitan Gas Company a portion of their area for something like £1,000,000, and with this sum and the amount provided for in the Bill they would then be able to defy the House of Commons for a long time to come. Again, the company had picked out of the five recommendations made by the Committee only those which were of the least importance to the general public, and after doing this they claimed that they had complied with the Committee's recommendations. The Committee had come to the conclusion not only that this company was badly managed, but that it ought not to have special powers without complying with those recommendations, and until they were inserted in the Bill he hoped the House of Commons would refuse to pass it.

MR. GRAY (West Ham, N.) said he desired to join in the opposition to this Bill. Having regard to the nature of the measure, he thought they ought not to allow the local authorities to be involved in the cost of attending before the Committee upstairs. The local authorities had already borne the expense twice, and he suggested that it would be most unbusinesslike to throw that cost upon them again. In those parts where this company had to compete with the South Metropolitan Gas Company they charged a lower rate, but when they had disposed of their South London property they would be free to charge the higher rate to their consumers in those districts. His constituents saw no reason why the ordinary consumers should be made to pay for mismanagement. The Committee which had been alluded to recommended that whenever another Bill was brought forward by this company it should contain a clause fixing the price to be charged for gas. But this Bill did not contain a clause. It was ridiculous for the company to come to the House and ask them to pass a Bill against the wishes of all the local authorities. He hoped the House would decide to protect the consumer, and not show such a tender interest for some of these monopolies. If the ratepayers of London knew the nature of this Bill they would be up in arms against it, and he hoped the House would teach this company a lesson, and throw out the Bill by a large majority.

MR. JOHN BURNS (Battersea) pointed out that the City Corporation, the County Council, and all the local authorities were unanimous in their chorus of condemnation in regard to this Bill. The hon. and learned Member for Stretford said that as a matter of business this Bill should be allowed to pass its Second Reading and be sent upstairs, but they had had so much of the Gas Light and Coke Company's legislative proposals that they were getting tired of them in their attenuated form. He objected to discussing skeleton Bills which had been rejected by Committees of the House of Commons and the House of Lords, and until this company brought in their proposals in such a way that they could be accepted on matters of principle he was not disposed to allow the time of the House to be wasted. Already this company had put the local authorities to an expenditure of something between £7,000 and £10,000, which was utterly unjustifiable. What did the South Metropolitan Gas Company do when they asked for legislation? They came forward with a whole, a full, and a good Bill, and they put all those proposals which the hon. Member for Stretford wished to be discussed upstairs into the Bill itself. In this way the local authorities had a chance of considering them fully, and the company were frank about it. The Gas Light and Coke Company, however, did no such thing. At the present time this company was charging the consumer 3s. 5d. per 1000 feet for gas, which was 9d. per thousand more than the company on the south side whose Bill had been passed this year. He believed that that difference in price was inexcusable and indefensible, and he contended that with efficient management that extra charge of 9d. could be reduced to 4d. or 5d. The manager of the South Metropolitan Gas Company made no secret of it, for he had stated that if this House compelled all the gas companies to amalgamate under his management, 2s. 8d. per thousand feet would be the uniform price all over London. At present the Gas Light and Coke Company charge 3s. 5d., the South Metropolitan Gas Company 2s. 8d., the Crystal Palace Company 2s. 10d., the Wandsworth and Putney Company 2s. 4d., or 11d. less than this wealthy company which was introducing this Bill. He appealed to the House not to put up with these extortions, and he asked hon. Members to reject this Bill because the local authorities were unanimous against it. He believed that the House of Commons had made up its mind that this company should not be allowed to continue to impose these exorbitant rates upon the consumers of gas.

MR. COHEN (Islington, E.) said that the constituency he represented had been the victim of these extortionate charges for a long time. The question involved was nothing less than the authority of the House of Commons itself. It was subversive of the authority of the House of Commons that a private company should be encouraged to ignore and disregard the representations of a Select Committee. He was not there to advocate all the recommendations of the Select Committee. It was quite possible that the House of Commons itself might find some of them could not be given effect to. He would remind the House what this company had done. They first introduced a Bill when the inquiry by the Select Committee was going on. Then they introduced a Bill ignoring altogether the recommendations of the Committee, and now, forsooth, they had the face to come before a Committee of the House obeying those recommendations of the Committee which were of least value to the consumers, and disregarding every other one. That system of dealing was not becoming on the part of a private company, and he hoped that the House would, by rejecting the Bill, tell the company that they would not be treated in that way.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central) said the matter they were considering had been before two Private Bill Committees, in two successive years—one a Committee of the House of Lords, and the other a Committee of the House of Commons. The Committee of the House of Commons had in distinct and emphatic terms objected to the Bill on the ground that the company had not given effect to the recommendations of the Select Committee of 1899. The Bill now before the House was substantially the same as the one of

1899 and 1900. Notwithstanding what had been said by the hon. and learned Member for Stretford, he failed to see that the company had complied with the Committee's recommendations, and he was sorry to say that he was forced very reluctantly to ask the House not to read the Bill a second time.

MR. CRIPPS said that, having regard to the opinions expressed in the House, he was authorised on behalf of the promoters, to ask leave to withdraw the Bill.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Bill withdrawn.

GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY BILL.

(BY ORDER.)

Order read, for resuming Adjourned Debate on Amendment to Question [12th March], "That the Bill be now read a second time."

And which Amendment was—

"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day six months.'"—(*Mr. Bell.*)

Question again proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

MR. PENN (Lewisham) said it might facilitate matters if he made a short statement as to what the promoters were prepared to do. They were willing to introduce after Clause 27 the words, "It shall not be compulsory upon any servant of the company to become a member of the society." Those words were similar to words introduced in the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Act of 1897, and in the Great Northern Railway Act of the same year. He trusted that the Amendment would satisfy the House.

MR. BELL (Derby) said he was glad that the hon. Member for Lewisham had seen his way clear to meet the suggestion he had made, but he certainly could not accept the Amendment now without further consideration, and he therefore moved the adjournment of the Debate.

Motion made, and Question put, "That the Debate be now adjourned."—(*Mr. Lough.*)

The House divided:—Ayes, 151; Noes, 160. (Division List No. 65.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Allan, William (Gateshead)
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Brand, Hon. Arthur G.
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, George M. (Derbyshire)
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caine, William Sproston
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carvill, Patrick Geo. Hamilton
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Clancy, John Joseph
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Cullinan, J.
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Delany, William
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickson, Charles Scott
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, James H.
Elibank, Master of
Emmott, Alfred
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans, Sir Francis H (Maidst'ne
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Gilhooly, James
Gordon, Maj Evans-(T'r Hmlets
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hammond, John
Harcourt, Rt. Hn. Sir William
Hardie, J Keir (Merthyr Tydvil
Harwood, George
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
Healy, Timothy Michael
Heaton, John Henniker
Holland, William Henry
Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside
Hope, John Deans (Fife West
Horniman, Frederick John
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jones, David B. (Swansea)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Jordon, Jeremiah
Joyce Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennedy, Patrick James
Kinloch, Sir John Geo. Smyth
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leamy, Edmund
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Leng, Sir John
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
M'Govern, T.
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kenna, Reginald
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mellor, Rt. Hon. John Wm.
Mooney, John J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morley, Charles (Breconshire)
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, J.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)

Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Md
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow W.
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, James (Rosc'mmon, N
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Palmer, George Wm. (Reading
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Philipps, John Wynford
Pirie, Duncan V.
Priestley, Arthur
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Roche, John
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Soares, Ernest J.
Stevenson, Francis S.
Strachey, Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, Alfred (Glamorgan, E.
Thomas, David Alf. (Merthyr
Thomas, F. Freeman-(Hastings
Thomson, F. W. (York, W.R.)
Tomkinson, James
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Tully, Jasper
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Weir, James Galloway
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wodehouse, Hn. Armine (Essex
Woodhouse, Sir J T (Huddersf'd
Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Bell and Sir Charles Dilke.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Aird, Sir John
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W (Leeds
Balfour, Maj. K. R. (Christch'ch
Banbury, Fredk. George
Bartley, George C. T.
Beach, Rt. Hn. W. W. B. (Hants
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bignold, Arthur
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boulnois, Edmund
Bowles, T. Gibson (King's Lynn
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Bullard, Sir Harry
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W (Derbyshire
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.
Chamberlain, J Austen (Worc'r
Chapman, Edward
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coddington, Sir William
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dewar, T. R. (T'r H'mlets, S. Geo.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir J. P.
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Dimsdale, Sir J. Cockfield
Doxford, Sir Wm. Theodore
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Fellowes, Hon. A. Edward
Fergusson, Rt Hn. Sir J. (Manc'r
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir R. Penrose-
Furness, Sir Christopher
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hn A. G. H. (City of Lond.
Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin & Nairn
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Hanbury, Rt. Hon Robert Wm.
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Heath, James (Staffords., N. W.
Hoare, Edw Brodie (Hampstead
Hobhouse, Henry (Somerset, E.
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Horner, Frederick William
Hoult, Joseph
Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (Denbigh
Kenyon, James (Lancs., Bury)
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W (Salop.
Kimber, Henry
Kitson, Sir James
Knowles, Lees
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawrence, William F.
Lee, Capt. A H (Hants. Fareham
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leighton, Stanley
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Col. Charles W (Evesham
Long, Rt Hn Walter (Bristol, S.)
Lowther, C. (Cumb. Eskdale)
Lowther, Rt. Hon. James (Kent
Lowther, Rt Hn J W (Cum. Penr
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsm'th)
Macartney, Rt. Hn. W. G. E.
Malcolm, Ian
Maple, Sir John Blundell
Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfriessh.
Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
Middlemore, John Throgmort'n
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
More, Robert J. (Shropshire)
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Myers, William Henry
Nicol, Donald Ninian
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Parker, Gilbert
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease, Sir Joseph W. (Durham
Penn, John
Percy, Earl
Pilkington, Richard
Plummer, Walter R.
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Rentoul, James Alexander
Renwick, George
Ridley, Hn. M. W (Stalybridge)
Ritchie, Rt Hn Chas. Thompson
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, H C (North'mb. Tynesi'e
Smith, James Parker (Lanarks)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Edward Jas. (Somerset
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir Wm. H.
Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E.
Warr, Augustus Frederick

Wason, John C. (Orkney)
Welby, Lt.-Col. ACE(Taunton
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset)
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. Renshaw and Mr.
Wilson-Todd.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Main Question again proposed.

MR. JOHN BURNS suggested that when railway directors desired to promote Bills such as the one under discussion, which, in spite of all that was said to the contrary, did interfere with the liberty of the subject, and prevented free and unfettered combination on the part of the employees, they should in future consult the hon. Member for Derby, who had just as much right to speak for railway men as a railway director had to place his name on the back of a railway Bill. The original clause made it obligatory upon the men to join the company's benefit society, but under the new clause the membership was to be optional. He, however, knew what "optional" railway funds meant. In the event of a member too closely examining the details—actuarial position and so on—he would soon find his occupation gone. He instanced the case of a man in the employment of the London and North-Western Railway Company who, having protested against the provident fund, was called upon by a superior official to give an explanation of what it was he objected to. The man lost his employment.

COLONEL LOCKWOOD (Essex, Epping): Can the hon. Member give me the name of that *employe*?

MR. JOHN BURNS: No, I decline to do that, and I have as much right to refuse the name as the War Office has to refuse the names of generals, but I may say I did not mention the Great Eastern Railway. Proceeding, the hon. Member said he objected to railway funds altogether, on the very simple ground that the men did not get the same amount of benefit for their money as they would obtain from an ordinary friendly society, supervised by the Registrar of Friendly Societies and under legislative safeguards and conditions. Railway service was more dangerous than many other spheres of employment, and it stood to reason that with only 8,000 or 9,000 members to meet that greater risk the benefit could not be so large as in the case of a society with perhaps half a million members. There was another objection to it. He did not believe that these railway funds were promoted either for philanthropic or benevolent purposes. Take the case of a Great Eastern Railway platelayer getting sixteen shillings per week. That man would have to contribute to an accident fund and also to a burial fund out of his very limited wages. This Bill also proposed an orphan fund to compete with the better fund provided by the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants. Out of such limited wages no man should be compelled against his will to contribute to three or four funds, (1) because he did not get value for his money, and (2) because he ought to be free to transfer his labour where he could get the most profitable employment without sustaining the loss of parting with all his past contributions. In these railway funds the men did not get full value for their money; they interfered with freedom of promotion, and also prevented a man getting that continuous investment which was possessed by every member of a friendly society. Take, for example, the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants, the Oddfellows, or the Hearts of Oak. Suppose a platelayer belonged to any of these societies, his investment was continuous; whereas, as a member of this fund, if he worked at Liverpool Street station and was transferred to the North Western Railway he would lose all he had paid in. What was more, supposing he was a patriotic platelayer, and went out to South Africa, in response to the Government request for men, to join the railway pioneer corps in order to rebuild the lines from Kimberley to Bulawayo which the Boers had destroyed, the moment he went on board ship at the dock he would lose all the benefits of his membership of this society. Why did not the Great Eastern Railway Company employ the staff engaged on these peddling schemes of sick funds, accident funds, burial funds, and orphan funds, in improving the passenger traffic at

Liverpool Street, and the general administration of the railway? In 1899 the House of Commons appointed a Committee to inquire into the working of shop clubs and railway funds, and the spirit and letter of the operation of these were adversely criticised by that Committee. It might be said that that criticism had been got rid of by the Great Eastern directors by the concessions which they had made. Nothing of the sort. The most objectionable condition was still retained, and he hoped that the directors would make a further concession. Why ask the men to contribute to no fewer than four funds? The reason was that this was an insidious device to divert the railway workmen's subscriptions from their trades unions, which protected them from long hours and short wages, and gave them better friendly society benefits than the Great Eastern Railway Company possibly could, and to render it impossible for these men to remain in their trade unions. If a workman was paying 10d. a week to these four schemes, and had only 16s. a week wages, it was obvious that he could not go on paying 5d. a week to his trade union. The wife would come along and say, "Tom, I wish you had wages enough for both the trade union and the railway societies, but you have not"; and over the tea-table Tom would reply, "What am I to do?" Jane, the wife, would say, "You had better choose the side on which your bread is buttered. If you do not do so, foreman this or superintendent that may probably carry it to the right or wrong quarter, and if you do not belong to the company's funds you will be spotted, your promotion will be checked, and ultimately you will lose your employment." And so the poor man would give in. The object of this scheme, therefore, was to hit the trade unions, to kill the freedom of the men, and to assist the directors who had not the capacity to get on good terms with their employees on account of some imaginary strike that was to come off. It was not for the House of Commons to play the game of the railway directors, but to uphold the liberty of the workmen.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR reminded the House that on the last occasion on which this Bill had been discussed objection was taken to the provident funds clause, and the adjournment of the debate was moved in order to give the directors of the Great Eastern Railway Company, the promoters, an opportunity of amending the clause. Now the hon. Member for Lewisham, on behalf of the company, expressed his willingness to amend the clause as follows: "It shall not be compulsory upon any servant of the company to become a member of the society." Nothing could be more clear or satisfactory than that. He was bound to say he did not think the speech of the hon. Member for Battersea had any reference to the question now before the House. He could not help thinking that that hon. Member had come down to the House primed with a speech on the suspicion that the directors would not give way. But they had given way, and the hon. Member for Battersea was not willing to forego the opportunity of making his prepared speech. The clause in its original form was not objectionable in any respect, but in its amended form it conceded everything that had been asked, and there was no reason why the Second Reading of the Bill should not be taken.

MR. TENNANT (Berwickshire) thought that the concession made by the hon. Member for Lewisham was probably useful. He would be the last to deny it, but he thought that it would have been only courteous had the hon. Gentleman come to hon. Members on that side of the House who took an interest in the subject and asked them whether the Amendment met their views or not. Would it not be wise, if it were possible, for the promoters to reconsider their determination, and give the opponents of the Bill an opportunity of considering how the operation of these words would affect their case? It was an extremely important Bill, and the House would remember how questions such as these were fought out day after day when the Compensation Bill was before the House. He thought it was only reasonable that the House should allow the debate to be adjourned for a day or two.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. RITCHIE, Croydon) said it was not usual to make any arrangement with any person to discuss a form of words to be introduced into a Bill. The usual procedure was to discuss the form when the Bill got into Committee, which practice had been followed by the hon. Member for Lewisham. The right hon. Member for Fife had asked the hon. Member whether the promoters would be prepared to insert words to make it clear that the clause was not compulsory. Now the hon. Member came to give in the House the undertaking for which he had been asked in the House. If it could be shown to the Committee upstairs that the words did not carry out the undertaking, the hon. Member would be prepared to consider other words.

*MR. BELL desired to make an explanation. In the course of his opposition to the Bill he had received resolutions from different centres of the Great Eastern Railway Company's district opposing the Bill, first in regard to the question of compulsion, and secondly because it was an effort of the directorate to deprive the employees of benefit for injuries. That was an injustice, and he could not accept anything while that clause was allowed to remain.

MR. CAINE (Cornwall, Camborne) was of opinion that it was not only a question of people being compelled to join the society, there were other questions, such as the control by the men and the right to withdraw, neither of which points had been touched by the Amendment.

*SIR FORTESCUE FLANNERY (Yorkshire, Shipley) was of opinion that nothing would be lost by an adjournment being granted. On the contrary, he thought there would be a great saving of time if the debate were adjourned, that an amicable settlement might be arrived at as to the words to be introduced into the Bill at a later stage. He did not agree with the President of the Board of Trade that these words would have an effect on the foremen throughout the railway system. The foremen would still select men for promotion, and the fact that a man had not joined the society would have an effect as to his selection or non-selection by the foreman. It was a far more important measure than many Members thought, and he hoped, for the sake of the peaceful settlement of the interests concerned, that the hon. Member would see his way to adjourning the debate. It did not seem to him that there would be any loss of dignity on the part of his hon. friend the Member for Lewisham in agreeing to such a course. The Bill had many features of extraordinary public value, independently of of the clause in dispute.

COLONEL LOCKWOOD hoped his hon. friend would not accept the suggestion which had just been made. The hon. Members for Battersea and Derby were not content with this Bill when it was obligatory, they were not content with it when it was not obligatory; and he would like to know what concession on the part of any railway company would ever make them contented, unless it exactly coincided with their own political and social views. Not content with general charges, the hon. Member for Battersea made a further charge against the London and North Western Railway Company, a company with which he himself was connected. The hon. Member made a very serious charge against that company, but refused to give the name of the man.

MR. JOHN BURNS: I will give it at once—it is Robert White, wagon examiner, of the London and North Western Railway, who, after twenty-one years service, was dismissed and forfeited all his benefits except 16s. 6d.

COLONEL LOCKWOOD: I should be very sorry to accept that statement as being correct until I have had an opportunity of checking it. [Opposition cries of "Oh," and "Withdraw."] I have nothing to withdraw.

*MR. SPEAKER: If the hon. and gallant Member had said that he considered that the hon. Member for Battersea had wilfully made a misstatement, of course he would have to withdraw the expression, and would do so, I am sure; but what he said was, I understand, that he does not accept the statement made as being a true version of the facts.

MR. JOHN BURNS: I do not object; I regard it as a directorial contradiction, and we know how they come.

COLONEL LOCKWOOD said it was pefectly clear that the hon. Members for Battersea and Derby objected to the railway companies having any benefit societies. The hon. Members objected to such societies running counter to their own.

*SIR JOSEPH PEASE (Durham, Barnard Castle) said the point on which the debate turned was the principle whether a man should or should not be compelled to join the society. The actual words had to be brought up in Committee on the Bill, as on the principle the House was agreed. The Home Secretary had already pointed out that the form of the Amendment could not be brought up on the Second Reading of the Bill. He might say that many years ago in a similar case similar words were accepted, and those words were discussed and agreed to by everybody interested before the Bill in question reached the Committee stage. This Bill contained a great many things advantageous to the districts through which the Great Eastern Railway passed, and the Bill need not now be detained in its Second Reading stage. If the proposals promised were not found in the Bill when it went into its subsequent stages the Bill would have a very rough time in the House.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carnarvon Boroughs), who spoke amid great interruption and cries of "Divide!" said it was all very well for railway directors earning their fees in the House to attempt to prevent free discussion, but so far as he was concerned they would not succeed. It was very unfortunate that the promoters would not accept the suggestions which had been offered. It was unfortunate an adjournment had not been granted. The speeches delivered showed that there was a greater difference than was supposed by the President of the Board of Trade. The concession was not a real one, hon. Gentleman having whittled away the whole of the concession as it was represented by the right hon. Gentleman the Home Secretary. The hon. Member in charge of the Bill said he would be willing to introduce a clause which should have the effect of eliminating compulsion, and he would read the words to the House, but nobody without taking the words down and considering them carefully could possibly say they were sufficient for the purpose. They would be asked were they going to reject this Bill, which might involve large considerations, which had been threshed out in Committee, and for which there had been all this expenditure, simply because they could not accept these words in regard to one particular clause. The promoters knew, and the President of the Board of Trade knew also, that this was the only real opportunity they would have of discussing these words. The matter had been discussed in regard to other companies. Two specific points had been put to the promoters. One was, were they willing that the men should control this fund; the other, were they going to permit men to withdraw their savings if they were dismissed from the employment of the company? That constituted the key to the whole situation, and if the promoters did not give to the House some assurance upon those two points, he hoped every opportunity would be taken of opposing the Bill.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES (Mr. J. W. LOWTHER, Cumberland, Penrith) said he would appeal to the House not to take upon itself at this stage the functions of a Committee. He humbly submitted that this was not the time to discuss the point; the time to do that was when the Bill was in Committee. If they were going on in that way, it was obvious that on the Second Reading of measures they would be occupying time on matters which ought to be taken up by the Committee, which was the proper body to go into the drafting of Clause 27. If the House would give the Bill a Second Reading and allow it to go to a Committee, he would take an early opportunity of getting his hon. friend the Member for Lewisham to meet him in his room, and he would invite the hon. Member for Derby, and they would consider together whether those words carried out the intentions in the minds of the two hon. Members who had spoken. He thought that a few moments conversation would achieve all that was desired, but supposing the consultation proved unsuccessful, the Committee would still have an opportunity of drafting such words as they thought suitable, and after that occasion, if the Bill came back to the House in a form not acceptable to the hon. Member for Derby, there would yet be an opportunity on the Report stage for the hon. Member to suggest any other words. He thought that was an offer which his hon. friend the Member for Lewisham would be willing to accept.

MR. PENN: I am willing to adopt that course.

SIR JOHN BRUNNER (Cheshire, Northwich) said that, as a rule, upon Committees upstairs there was no one to represent the public, because each party represented their personal and pecuniary interests. Under such circumstances, it was very difficult to protect the public interests. The House was asked, in spite of what had been said by the hon. Member for Lewisham, to allow this company to compel their men to contribute to a fund in which it was a condition, no matter how many years a man paid into it, that he should sacrifice the whole when he left the employment of the company. They ought not to consent to give a clause to a railway company to enforce such a condition as that. He heartily welcomed the interposition of the Chairman of Committees.

MR. COURTENAY WARNER (Staffordshire, Lichfield) thought he ought to have an opportunity of putting a point which no one had yet put. There had been considerable friction between the men employed and the company, and that friction had been so great at times that there had been danger of a strike occurring. A strike on the Great Eastern Railway would be the means of the dislocation of a great part of the labour of London, because a large number of workmen were brought up to London by that line. The danger of a strike which this clause might produce would at once be seen, and he hoped the House would be very careful not to permit the company to have such a power.

*MR. BELL said the suggestion made by the Chairman of Committees was certainly a point in advance of what the promoter of the Bill had said. He was prepared to accept the right hon. Gentleman's suggestion, provided the conference took place before the notice he had down for an Instruction to the Committee was reached. The conditions laid down in his previous statement were that the clause should be withdrawn for the present session, so that the employees might make arrangements of their own.

*MR. J. W. LOWTHER: I am quite willing to do that.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR (Liverpool, Scotland) asked if the right hon. Gentleman meant by his proposal that if the Second Reading was allowed to pass a conference would then take place between the representatives of the railway company and the hon. Members alluded to in order to see if some agreement could be arrived at?

*MR. J. W. LOWTHER: I am quite willing to give such an undertaking.

*MR. SPEAKER: As the hon. Member for Derby speaks of moving his Instruction afterwards, it is only fair that I should tell him that I do not think I should be justified in allowing the hon. Member to move his Instruction, for it would be asking the House to debate over again the exact question raised by him on the Second Reading.

*MR. BELL: I am much obliged to you, Mr. Speaker, for the interpretation you have given.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT (Monmouthshire, W.) asked if that ruling applied also to the Committee.

*MR. SPEAKER: Not at all. This point has already been the subject of discussion.

MR. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil) said it was within his knowledge that a considerable number of Members were prepared to vote for the Second Reading if Clause 27 were deleted. The effect of the Speaker's ruling would be that the Second Reading would be got with the clause in the Bill, and no opportunity would be given for taking it out.

*MR. SPEAKER: Does the hon. Member withdraw his Amendment?

MR. BELL: I understand that I can raise the question on the Report stage. On that understanding I beg leave to withdraw my Amendment.

Main Question put, and agreed to.—Bill read a second time, and committed.

Ordered, That it be an Instruction to the Committee to insert the following clause:—

No scheme for the establishment of a provident fund under this Act shall come into operation until it has been registered by the Registrar of Friendly Societies under the Friendly Societies Act.—(*Mr. Strachey.*)

NORTH BRITISH RAILWAY BILL.

MR. BELL said the objection he had to the North British Railway Bill was not a very strong one. He had had a short conference with the promoters, and had expressed the objections of the employees to one of the clauses. Under this clause the company sought to employ police on the same lines as the county and borough police. The privileges which railway police had had for some years past had been largely abused as against railway servants, who had been assaulted and wrongfully arrested upon suspicion, and wrongful searches of their houses had often been made. He thought the instances of this kind which had been brought before the public lately were a good reason why they should have some expression of opinion from the representative of the company. The railway servants objected to the police having power to follow and arrest any person who had departed from any railway station. He begged to move his Instruction.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That it be an Instruction to the Committee to strike out sub-section (3) in Clause 45 of the North British Railway Bill."—(*Mr. Bell.*)

THE EARL OF DALKEITH (Roxburghshire) assured the hon. Member for Derby that it was not the intention of the directors of the North British Railway that their employees should be harassed unnecessarily by such proceedings, but he was not quite sure that this clause made very much difference in regard to their position. This clause had been introduced to enable them to follow luggage thieves rather than for matters of that kind, and a similar clause had already been introduced into nine other railway Bills. The clause had been considered by the Home Office, and the form which had been adopted was based on the model clause which was generally enforced. It was the last wish of the directors to harass their men or accuse them unjustly, but if there was anything of that kind in this clause, they might discuss it in Committee upstairs. He thought it would be most injudicious, and contrary to the practice of the House, to adopt Instructions of this kind at the present stage. He hoped the hon. Member would not press his Instruction, because it would, if passed, fetter the discretion of the Committee very much in dealing with this question.

MR. BELL: I beg leave to withdraw my motion.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP D).

The CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS informed the House that the Committee on Group D of Private Bills not being appointed to meet until Thursday next, the parties opposing the Heckmondwike Gas (Transfer) Bill, which was set down for consideration on the first day of the meeting of the Committee, had appeared before him and proved that the evidence of Arthur Frederick Goodson, Secretary to the Heckmondwike Gas Company, Gas Works, Heckmondwike, was essential to their case, and that his attendance could not be procured without the intervention of the House.

Ordered, That the said Arthur Frederick Goodson do attend the Committee on Group D of Private Bills on Thursday next, at half-past Eleven of the clock.—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*)

PETITIONS.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (HIGHER GRADE AND EVENING CONTINUATION SCHOOLS).

Petition from Bedford, for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table.

INHABITED HOUSE DUTY AND INCOME TAX.

Petition from Westminster, for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table.

PARLIAMENTARY FRANCHISE.

Petitions for extension to women, from Bolton; and Longforgan; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY BILL.

Petition from Chertsey, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Cleator Moor; Wark on Tyne; Gateshead (two); Otley; Cuckfield; Longcott and Fernham; Nigg; Holme Eden; Birmingham (three); Lincoln (one); Tow Law; Abersychan; Edinburgh (four); Dulverton; Teesdale; Sheffield (three); Norton; Carlisle (three); Chorley; Govan; New Whittington; York (two); Hull; Tarvin; and Barrow in Furness; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Wick and Pulteneytown; Hamilton; Nigg; Cambusnethan; Dunfermline; Tomintoul; Liberton; Loanhead; Duffus; Edinburgh; Rattray; Wishaw; Dingwall; Newton Stewart; Gardenstown; Alloa; New Muchar; Dumfries; and Keith; to lie upon the Table.

SOVEREIGN'S OATH ON ACCESSION BILL.

Petitions against, from Alva; Dunfermline; and Cowdenbeath; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

ST. CROSS HOSPITAL, WINCHESTER.

Return [presented 13th March] to be printed. [No. 83.]

CHURCH ESTATES COMMISSION.

Copy presented, of Fiftieth Report from the Church Estates Commissioners for the year preceding 1st March, 1901 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1887.

Copy presented, of Treasury Minute, dated 7th January, 1901, granting a retired allowance to Mr. E. A. de Wiele, Admiralty Writer, under the Act [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

LUNACY (SCOTLAND).

Copy presented, of Rules for the Engineer and the Plumber of the Inverness District Asylum [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

IRISH LAND COMMISSION (PROCEEDINGS).

Copy presented, of Return of Proceedings during the month of November, 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

BANKRUPTCY COURTS (IRELAND).

Annual Returns presented, of the Official Assignees of the Court of Bankruptcy in Ireland and the Local Courts, Belfast and Cork, for the year 1900 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

BOARD OF EDUCATION (CODE 1901).

Copy presented, of Code of Regulations for Day Schools, with Schedules and Appendices, by the Board of Education [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

ARMY.

Copy presented, of Memorandum of Field Marshal Viscount Wolseley and of Memoranda thereon [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

PAPER LAID UPON THE TABLE BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE.

Controverted Elections.—Further Return, Copy of Minutes of Evidence and Judgment in the Cockermouth Election Trial [ordered 22nd February; *Mr. Attorney General*].

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (IRELAND) OFFICIALS.

Return ordered, "showing the names, dates of appointments, and emoluments of all Officials transferred by virtue of the provisions of The Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898, to County, District Councils, or Boards of Guardians, with the salaries of every such official as fixed by these bodies, or as determined by the Local Government Board; the increases in the poundage rates consequent upon the operation of these provisions of the Act where the salaries were increased; the amount proposed to be paid by these bodies to any such official by way of compensation or retiring allowance, and the amount determined by the Treasury on appeal to be payable."—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

WINES IMPORTED.

Return ordered, "showing the quantity of Wines, at the various degrees of strength, which were imported into the United Kingdom in 1900 from Spain, Portugal, Madeira, France, Germany, Holland, Italy, Australasia, and other countries (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 155, of Session 1900)."—(*Mr. T. R. Dewar.*)

CONTROVERTED ELECTIONS.

Mr. SPEAKER informed the House that he had received from the Judges for the time being on the rota for the trial of Election Petitions the following Certificate and Report relating to the Election for the Cockermouth Division of the County of Cumberland:—

COCKERMOUTH ELECTION PETITION.

In the High Court of Justice, King's Bench Division.

The Parliamentary Elections Act, 1868.

The Corrupt and Illegal Practices Prevention Acts, 1854 to 1895.

To the Right Honourable the Speaker of the House of Commons.

Election for the Cockermouth Division of the County of Cumberland, holden on the 4th day of October, 1900.

In the matter of an Election Petition for the said Division presented to the High Court of Justice on the 19th day of November, 1900.

John Armstrong, James Hardaker Brooksbank, Benjamin Brown, James Beck, William Cooper, and Barwise Henderson, Petitioners, and John Scurrah Randles, Respondent.

We, Sir Charles John Darling, Knight, and Sir Arthur Moseley Channell, Knight, Judges of the High Court of Justice, and two of the Judges on the rota for the time being for the trial of Election Petitions in England and Wales, do hereby, in pursuance of the said Acts, certify that, upon the 26th, 27th, and 28th days of February, 1901, we duly held a Court at the Mission Hall, Duke Street, Workington, for the trial of and did try the said Election Petition between the said Petitioners and the said Respondent.

And in further pursuance of the said Acts we report that at the conclusion of the said trial we determined that the Respondent, being the Member whose Election and return were complained of in the said Petition, was duly elected and returned, and that his Election was not void, and we do hereby certify such our determination to you.

And whereas charges were made in the said Petition that various illegal practices therein specified had been committed in reference to the said Election by the Respondent and his agents, we, in further pursuance of the said Acts, report as follows:—

(a) That no illegal practice was proved to have been committed in reference to the said Election by or with the knowledge and consent of the Respondent.

(b) That no persons were proved to have been guilty of any illegal practices other than the acts or omissions set out in paragraph (e) hereof.

(c) That there is no reason to believe that illegal practices extensively prevailed at the said Election.

(d) That the Respondent was not proved to have been guilty by his agents of any illegal practice other than the acts or omissions set out in paragraph (e) hereof.

(e) That certain of the acts or omissions alleged in the said Petition to be illegal practices as having been committed by the Election agent, sub-agents, or other agents of the Respondent, in contravention of the 20th and 33rd sections of the Corrupt and Illegal Practices Prevention Act, 1883, namely: (1) the use of a room on licensed premises as a committee room, and (2) the return of the Election expenses of the Respondent at the said Election by his Election agent not being in all particulars in accordance with the form provided by the said Act, arose from inadvertence or from some other reasonable cause of a like nature, and did not arise from any want of good faith, and under such circumstances it seemed just to the Court that the said Respondent, his Election agent, sub-agents, or other agents should not be subject to any of the consequences under the said Act of the said acts or omissions, and the Court therefore made an order pursuant to the 23rd section of the said Act allowing the said acts or omissions to be exceptions from the provisions of the said Act which might otherwise have made them or any of them an illegal practice or practices.

(f) That the other illegal practices alleged in the said Petition were not proved or were disproved.

A Copy of the evidence and of our judgment herein taken by the deputies of the shorthand writer of the House of Commons accompanies this our Certificate.

CHARLES DARLING.
A. M. CHANNELL.

QUESTIONS.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—MR. ADRIAN HOFMEYR'S MISSION.

MR. PIRIE (Aberdeen, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies if he can state who was responsible for sending Mr. Adrian Hofmeyr to Pretoria; what were the actual terms of his engagement there; and what salary did he receive; whether the fact that he had been suspended from the Dutch Church for immorality was known to those who appointed him, and why care was not exercised in making inquiry before accepting Mr. Hofmeyr's services, and if in future the antecedents of those employed by the Government in South Africa will be impartially inquired into; and whether he is aware that statements made publicly by Mr. Hofmeyr when lecturing in England during the General Election as to his treatment at the hands of the Boers were characterised by General Baden-Powell as a fabrication.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.): I telegraphed the substance of the first two paragraphs of the hon. Member's question to Sir A. Milner, and have received the following reply:—

> "Lord Kitchener asked me to send Mr. Hofmeyr to Pretoria if I thought that he would be of use, and as I did think so I sent him then and there. No employment was specified; I simply told him that I wanted him to place his services entirely at Lord Kitchener's disposal, and that I could not say for how long or short a time he might be wanted, but that while employed he would be paid at the rate of £50 per month plus actual travelling expenses. I take sold responsibility for this arrangement; was not aware, and I am not now aware, he was suspended for immorality. I was aware that there had been some scandal about him two years ago and that he had quitted post of Dutch Reformed minister at Wynberg."

As to the third paragraph, I have no information. I have already informed the hon. Gentleman that Mr. Hofmeyr was not employed by Lord Kitchener.

NAVAL BRIGADE DESPATCHES.

SIR J. FERGUSSON (Manchester, N.E.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he will lay upon the Table the despatches in regard to the Naval Brigade in South Africa which were published in the London *Gazette* of the 12th instant.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER, Belfast, W.): There will be no objection to laying these Papers if the right hon. Gentleman will move for them.

COLONIAL TROOPS—STATISTICS.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether it is possible to state the number of men sent to South Africa by the Dominion of Canada, the colony of New Zealand, and each of the six Australian colonies respectively, and the number in each case who have completed their service and returned to their colonies; also the number in the case of each of these colonies now serving in South Africa.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): The figures are too numerous to read out to the House, but I will lay them on the Table, as far as it is possible to give them.

PENSIONS FOR SOLDIERS' WIDOWS AND ORPHANS.

MR. KEARLEY (Devonport): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can now state the particulars of the pensions proposed to be given to the widows and orphans of those who have lost their lives in the South African Campaign.

MR. BRODRICK: The actual conditions on which grants will be given are not quite settled; but I may inform the hon. Member that so far as the Government are concerned the rates of pension and compassionate allowance to widows and children of non-commissioned officers and men, killed in action or dying of wounds or disease contracted on active service, will be as follows:—

Class.	Widows. s.	d.		Each child. s.	d.
I. Q. M.-Sergeant	10	0	..	2	0
II. Col.-Sergeant -	9	0	..	2	0
III. Sergeant -	7	6	..	2	0
IV. Corporal -	6	0	..	1	6
V. Privates -	5	0	..	1	6

BOER PRISONERS—PLACES OF CUSTODY.

Mr. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether the Indian Government are making plans and estimates for the location of batches of 1,000 Boers at Dehra, Pachmarhi, and other places; and, if so, whether the Boers will be imprisoned in those districts.

The SECRETARY of STATE for INDIA (Lord G. Hamilton, Middlesex, Ealing): Yes, Sir; arrangements are under consideration to locate Boer prisoners in India, in case the present available places of detention become overcrowded.

Mr. JAMES O'CONNOR: Are these Dutchmen to be imprisoned in India?

Lord G. HAMILTON: They will be detained under the same condition as the other Boer prisoners.

Mr. TREVELYAN (Yorkshire, W.R., Elland): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether places are being prepared for the reception of Boer prisoners in India; whether, if so, the prisoners to be removed there are now at Ceylon, or whether the Government are contemplating sending any more out of South Africa; and whether, if the latter is the case, they will consider the possibility of sending them to our Australasian colonies in preference to India or Ceylon, both for climatic reasons and in order to increase the opportunities of friendly contact between the two races.

Mr. BRODRICK: All the questions mentioned by the hon. Member will be considered before any step is taken. It is not proposed to move any of the prisoners who have already been deported.

COURTS-MARTIAL—STATISTICS OF IMPRISONMENT.

Mr. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can state the number of soldiers sent back from South Africa in custody; how many are now undergoing sentence in Great Britain, and in what prisons; how many soldiers are undergoing sentence in South Africa, and in what prisons; and would he have any objection to give a Return of the number of offenders in each regiment, and the nature of the offences, and the character of the courts-martial.

The FINANCIAL SECRETARY to the WAR OFFICE (Lord Stanley, Lancashire, Westhoughton): It would take a very long time and much labour to obtain the detailed information required. It is quite impossible to throw on the staff in South Africa the labour of making a variety of detailed Returns unless for some urgent public purpose.

Mr. T. M. HEALY: Will the noble Lord say how many soldiers have been sent back in custody from South Africa, and what prisons they are now confined in? It is a question which affects the liberty of these men, and we are entitled to look into it.

[No answer was given.]

Mr. T. M. HEALY: Surely I am entitled to an answer.

Lord STANLEY: I am afraid I cannot give the hon. Member the information he requires. It would involve an enormous amount of work to collect it, whether in England or in South Africa. The staffs in both places are very much overworked, and I hope that hon. Members will not press for any of these Returns as long as the war is going on.

Mr. T. M. HEALY: But is not the liberty of these men in question?

*Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order!

CIVIL SURGEONS AND NURSES—WAR GRATUITY.

Sir ANDREW AGNEW (Edinburgh, S.): I beg to ask the Financial Secretary to the War Office whether the civil surgeons and nursing sisters employed in tending the sick and wounded in

South Africa will be entitled to the same war gratuity as those connected with the Army.

LORD STANLEY: Civil surgeons, civil veterinary surgeons, and nursing sisters are employed under a definite contract as to pay, and are not entitled to any war gratuity.

SOUTH AFRICAN COLD STORAGE COMPANY'S CONTRACT.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick's): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that the South African Cold Storage Company contracted for the supply of fresh meat for the troops in the field at 11d. per pound for each pound of dead meat actually handed over; whether, notwithstanding that the conditions of the contract provided for the supply of cattle and sheep to accompany the troops with drovers and other necessary arrangements for the care of live animals, this part of the contract was not complied with, three-fourths of the supply being frozen or refrigerated meat; whether he is aware that the same firm at the same time was supplying frozen meat for the troops at Cape Town and to the Admiralty for transports at 5¾d. per pound; and whether precautions have been taken to ensure that the terms of the contract shall be carried out.

LORD STANLEY: I must refer the hon. Member to my reply to a similar question put on Tuesday, the 12th instant, by the hon. Member for the Flint District.* I may add that this contract expired in February, 1900.

WELSH HOSPITAL IN SOUTH AFRICA.

MR. G. T. KENYON (Denbigh): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the assent of the subscribers to the fund for the Welsh Hospital in South Africa to its absorption in another hospital was asked for or obtained, and whether he is aware that a considerable amount of the money originally subscribed still remains unexpended.

LORD STANLEY: The absorption was arranged by the authorities in South Africa in communication with those in charge of the hospital there. I am not aware of the details of that arrangement, or of the conditions on which it was made; nor do I know the position of the funds. Lord Kitchener has given instructions that full information as to the circumstances of the absorption shall be reported.

MR. BRYNMOR JONES (Swansea District): May I ask the noble Lord whether the gentleman to whom he alluded on Tuesday last was authorised to speak only for the executive committee? Has the general secretary expressed satisfaction at, or acquiescence in, the action of the military authorities?

LORD STANLEY: The gentleman I referred to represented the executive committee. I thought, wrongly, it seems, that he represented the views of the whole committee. I do not exactly know what are the objections now being raised, but if the hon. Member will see me privately I shall be most happy to give the matter my attention.

IMPERIAL YEOMANRY RECRUITS—RIDING AND SHOOTING TESTS.

MR. BARTLEY (Islington, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether, before accepting the application of anyone to serve in the Imperial Yeomanry or other mounted force enrolled to proceed to South Africa, each applicant is tested in riding and shooting; and whether all are refused who cannot show their efficiency in these requirements.

LORD STANLEY: Yes, Sir.

MR. BARTLEY: Where are the men who come up to the offices in Victoria Street tried in these matters?

LORD STANLEY: I cannot say.

YEOMANRY CAVALRY TRAININGS.

COLONEL WARDE (Kent, Medway): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether it has been decided to order a training of Yeomanry Cavalry this year; and, if so, on what conditions.

MR. BRODRICK: The Yeomanry will certainly train this year. An Army Order on the subject will shortly be published.

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* See page 1328 of this volume.

RESERVE OFFICERS.

Sir J. FERGUSSON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether it is intended to appoint to the garrison battalions any reserve officers who have served during the late emergency, and who are recommended by their commanding officers; and whether the employment by the War Office of officers no longer on the active list may include officers of any arm or only ex-Staff officers.

Mr. BRODRICK: The reply to the first paragraph is in the affirmative. In reply to the second paragraph, officers of any arm may be employed, but will be selected according to their suitability for the duty for which they are required. A preference will be given to officers otherwise eligible who may have been disabled in the war.

WAR OFFICE—LORD WOLSELEY'S MEMORANDUM TO LORD SALISBURY.

Mr. LABOUCHERE (Northampton): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he will lay upon the Table of the House the Memorandum addressed to the Prime Minister by Lord Wolseley, enumerating his duties as Commander-in-Chief; and all correspondence of an official character between him, when Commander-in-Chief, and the late Secretary of State for War, in respect to the military operations that might become necessary in the event of war in South Africa.

Mr. BRODRICK: The question of laying before Parliament the letter addressed by Lord Wolseley to the Prime Minister is one for their consideration. I am not aware of any correspondence between the late Commander-in-Chief and the late Secretary of State for War on this subject, and it would be quite contrary to usage to lay the departmental minutes which pass daily between officials on all the current business of a Department before Parliament.

FORT OF INCHKEITH GUNS.

Mr. JOHN HOPE (Fifeshire, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if the guns on the fort of Inchkeith are muzzle or breech loaders; if the latter, are they of the newest quick-firing pattern; also whether, for the protection of the Forth, he will consider the advisability of placing batteries no the Bass Rock and May Island.

Lord STANLEY: It has been explained to the House on previous occasions that it is not considered expedient to give information in regard to the details of the various armaments. I may, however, state that the guns on Fort Inchkeith are all breechloaders.

WELSH MILITARY HEADQUARTERS.

Mr. STANLEY LEIGHTON (Shropshire, Oswestry): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been called to the inconvenience arising from the present distribution of Welsh counties for purposes of military command, whereby the military headquarters for North Wales are located at Chester, whilst the headquarters for South Wales, together with Montgomeryshire and Monmouthshire, are located at Plymouth; and whether, in view of the advantages in matters of recruiting and training which would accrue, he will consider the advisability of establishing one military command for the Principality.

Lord STANLEY: I am not aware of any inconvenience arising from the present distribution of Welsh counties for purposes of military command. Further, it is not at all likely that the troops quartered in Wales will amount to a whole army corps, and it will therefore be necessary to allot the troops there either to form part of one or more of the six future army corps already notified.

MARK IV. BULLETS.

Mr. HERBERT LEWIS (Flint Boroughs): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can state how much compensation has been paid to contractors in connection with the withdrawal of Mark IV. cartridges; how many Mark IV. bullets have been broken up; and how many Mark IV. bullets still remain in stock.

Lord STANLEY: £6,568 16s. 7d. has been paid to the contractors. About 4½ million bullets were broken up, and about 250,000 are still in hand.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS: Were these Dumdum bullets?

LORD STANLEY: No, Sir.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS: Why were they broken up?

LORD STANLEY: If the hon. Member will put the question down, I will endeavour to answer it.

MEDICAL ATTENDANCE FOR SOLDIERS' WIVES.

MR. ARCHDALE (Fermanagh, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the wives and families of soldiers, embodied militia, or reservists, serving with their corps, are only entitled to free medical attendance when residing within reach of an officer of army medical corps or of civil practitioner engaged at military contract rates; and, if so, will he say who is to pay for medical attendance for those who live outside that distance and are too poor to pay for themselves.

LORD STANLEY: It has been explained to the House before that it is not possible to provide medical attendance for those residing at a distance from military headquarters.

SOLDIERS' UNCLAIMED BALANCES.

MR. KEARLEY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can give the respective annual amounts of soldiers' unclaimed balances for the last six years that are ascertainable, and how have these been disposed of.

LORD STANLEY: The figures for the last six years of which the accounts have been closed are as follows:—1892–3, £1,268; 1893–4, £1,418; 1894–5, £2,979; 1895–6, £3,238; 1896–7, £1,036; 1897–8, £1,813. The balances for the first two years have been transferred to the Patriotic Fund. The remainder are invested pending transfer at the expiration of the statutory period of advertisement.

DECEASED OFFICERS' BAGGAGE.

MR. HAY (Shoreditch, Hoxton): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether, in administering the estates of officers who have died on active service, it has been the practice of the War Office to delay payment of moneys due to their estates, or to demand a guarantee in respect thereof before payment, on account of the cost of carriage home of the deceased officers' baggage; and, if so, whether he will take measures to abolish a regulation which has caused much hardship to those dependent upon the proceeds of the deceased officers' estates.

LORD STANLEY: There has been no delay of payment arising from cost of conveyance of baggage home. Owing to a number of claims against officers for conveyance of excess baggage in South Africa, arrangements were made for retaining a balance of £5 from the estates of officers to meet any such claim. This arrangement ceased last December, and all cases have, so far as I am aware, been settled.

DEAD SOLDIERS' CLOTHING.

SIR WALTER FOSTER (Derbyshire, Ilkeston): I beg to ask the Financia, Secretary to the War Office whether he is aware that clothes of men dying in South Africa from enteric fever are returned to this country often in a dirty state; and whether, in consequence of the danger of infection, now increased by the prevalence of plague in Cape Colony, he will order that the kits of soldiers dying of disease shall be thoroughly disinfected before being returned to this country, or destroyed, and proper compensation made to their relatives.

LORD STANLEY: No clothing of men dying in South Africa is returned to the Clothing Department at home and nothing is known of any having been sent home privately. In accordance with the Regimental Debts Act the personal effects, except special articles left by will, belonging to a soldier dying on active service are sold by auction on the spot. Special cautionary instructions as to the spread of infection have been sent out.

LONDON VOLUNTEERS—RIFLE RANGES.

COLONEL LONG (Worcestershire, Evesham): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can state what steps it is proposed to take to insure the London Volunteers having satisfactory facilities, as far as ranges near at hand are concerned, for rifle practice and for becoming efficient shots.

MR. BRODRICK: The ranges at Bisley and Staines provide for a large number of the corps, and I had hoped that with the assistance of the London County Council an excellent range could have been obtained for those corps whose headquarters are in the east of the Metropolis. The representatives of the Volunteers, however, refused to accept the arrangement if the London County Council participated therein. I have no other scheme at present under consideration.

ILFORD RIFLE RANGE.

COLONEL LONG: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether, in view of the acknowledged excellency in shooting arrived at in Switzerland by practising on short ranges, and the fact that a range near the headquarters of a rifle corps can be much more extensively used and consequently be much more valuable than one at a considerable distance, he will have a fresh inquiry held to see whether the Ilford Range, which has been used so long with perfect safety, cannot, even if doubtful for long ranges, be made a safety range up to some 400 yards.

LORD STANLEY: This question has been very carefully considered and the Secretary of State is not advised to reopen it. The military authorities hold that it is impossible to adapt the Ilford Range to meet the musketry requirements now imposed upon the Volunteers.

NON-ALCOHOLIC REFRESHMENTS FOR TRAVELLING SOLDIERS AND SAILORS.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether any, and, if any, how many railway companies besides the Great Eastern have arranged to supply soldiers, reservists, and sailors in uniform with non-alcoholic refreshments at railway station bars at a reduced price; and will he state what steps have been taken to acquaint the men of this concession.

LORD STANLEY: Communications on this subject have been made to all the principal railway companies. As soon as the arrangements which are in progress have been completed they will be made known.

MAJOR RASCH (Essex, Chelmsford): Will the noble Lord inquire as to the indifferent quality and high prices of the provisions before forcing them down the throats of the men?

MR. WEIR: And will he take steps to inform the men of the concession made in their favour?

LORD STANLEY: It is of no use acquainting them of the fact until the concession has actually been granted by more than one railway company.

PATRICK M'NAMARA'S PENSION.

MR. MURPHY (Kerry, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been called to the case of Patrick M'Namara, of Sixmilebridge, county Clare, who was formerly a soldier in the 14th Regiment, and served for one year and two months in the Crimea, and twenty-three years in the English Army; whether he is aware that M'Namara is only in receipt of a pension of 4s. 8d. per week, out of which he has to pay rent and support a family; that he is now weak from old age, and has to depend for medical assistance and nourishment on the ratepayers; and that the Limerick Board of Guardians and the police of his district have recommended the War Office to increase his allowance; and whether, having regard to all the circumstances, arrangements will be made to give this old soldier a sufficient amount to keep him from want and suffering.

LORD STANLEY: The amount of this man's pension is as stated, but it is not possible under the regulations applicable to his case to grant him any increase. He was not in possession of any good conduct badges when discharged, and his character while in the Army was bad.

QUEEN VICTORIA'S FUNERAL—1ST SEAFORTH VOLUNTEERS.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that the company of 1st Seaforth Volunteers who, in response to an invitation from the War Office, left Dingwall soon after noon on Friday, 1st February, for the purpose of taking part in the ceremonies at the Queen's funeral, found on their arrival at King's Cross at 5.30 on Saturday morning that there was no one to direct them, and that no provision had been made for their arrival, with the result that it was only by accident, and through the courtesy of the commanding officer of a Metropolitan Volunteer corps, that they obtained food late in the afternoon prior to their return to Dingwall by the 5.30 p.m. train, arriving at the latter place Sunday forenoon; and will the state who is responsible for this neglect, which caused discomfort and dissatisfaction.

Lord STANLEY: An officer was detailed as station staff officer at King's Cross on the 2nd February, and the detachment was duly directed on their arrival in the morning to the King's Cross goods shed, where ample accommodation and food were provided. No neglect is attributable to anyone.

Mr. WEIR: Is the noble Lord aware that as soon as the men entered the goods shed they were ordered out by the railway company? I have it on the best authority that that was the case. Is the noble Lord aware that the men had neither food nor drink provided for them? I beg to give notice that I shall take the earliest possible opportunity of drawing attention to the gross neglect of which these men were the victims.

NEW NAVAL BARRACKS AT PORTSEA.

Mr. REGINALD LUCAS (Portsmouth): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether the Board have yet come to a decision upon the case of the men employed by Messrs. Lovett, the contractors, on the new naval barracks works at Portsea, who received no allowance for enforced loss of work on the occasion of the funeral of Her late Majesty, when the Government employees engaged upon the same work suffered no loss of pay.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: A decision has not yet been arrived at, but will very shortly be given, and I shall then be happy to communicate it to my hon. friend.

DEPTFORD VICTUALLING YARD LIGHTING.

Captain NORTON (Newington, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether his attention has been drawn to the arrangements for lighting at Deptford Victualling Yard, where men have been working overtime during the past eighteen months loading and unloading ships and barges by candle lamps and gaslight, as a result of which several slight accidents have occurred, and one man recently broke his leg; and whether seeing that on either side of the yard, both at the Foreign Cattle Market and Brighton Railway Company Dock, electric light is used, he will take steps for the introduction of that light into the yard.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: During the last eighteen months only nine accidents—one of them severe—have occurred in connection with the loading or unloading of vessels at Deptford, and none of them are attributable to defective lighting. They are only the ordinary cases of spraining and slight contusions inseparable from wharf duty. The case referred to, where a man broke his leg, occurred through his slipping from a frozen plank in the frosty weather. The wharves are lighted by Siemens' patent gas lamps, and in order to facilitate the work of loading or unloading, candle lamps are placed on board the craft. Fewer accidents have occurred by night than by day.

Captain NORTON: Does the hon. Gentleman deny that the gas lighting in this yard is defective?

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I think it is adequate for all purposes.

ILLEGAL TRAWLING NEAR ABERDEEN—THE "JACKAL."

Mr. PIRIE: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether, having regard to the fact that the "Jackal" is the gunboat more directly charged with the duty of preventing illegal trawling in the close vicinity of Aberdeen, he can state where she is at present, how often during the months of December, January, and February, respectively, this boat has been berthed in Aberdeen Harbour, and on how many of such occasions she has taken up her moorings inside the dock gates of the harbour; what is the number of officers on board her, and since when has the present officer in charge of her held the appointment.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: His Majesty's ship "Jackal" is stationed on the coast of Scotland for the protection of the fisheries generally, and is not directly or exclusively charged with such duties in the vicinity of Aberdeen only. She was at Aberdeen under repair up to the 19th December last (another gunboat doing her duty). She left on the date named for fishery duty, and has not since been in Aberdeen Harbour. From the 1st January she has been employed in the waters of the Hebrides. The commanding officer of the "Jackal" is Lieut.-Commander James C. Tancred, the date of whose appointment is 10th February, 1899.

ABYSSINIAN FRONTIER DISPUTE.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether any agreement with the Negus has yet been signed with regard to the delimitation of the Abyssinian frontier; and whether any arrangement has been come to for joint action against a common enemy on the frontier.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.) (for Lord CRANBORNE): No agreement has yet been signed with regard to the Abyssinian frontier, but negotiations are now proceeding between King Menelek and His Majesty's agent and Consul General at Adis Abeba on the subject. King Menelek last year invited the co-operation of His Majesty's Government in suppressing a fanatical Mollah who has for some time past been disturbing the peace among the tribes on the borders of the British Protectorate of Somaliland and the Abyssinian dominions. His Majesty's Government have instructed their officers to arrange for such co-operation in the event of a forward movement against the Mollah becoming necessary. This is, however, only a temporary arrangement for a special purpose.

CHINA—RUSSIA AND MANCHURIA.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether His Majesty's Government have made any proposals to the United States Government in reference to the action of Russia in Manchuria; and, if so, whether he will state the nature of these proposals.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR (for Lord CRANBORNE): His Majesty's Government are in constant communication with the Powers concerned on every phase of the Chinese question, but it would be contrary to the public interest to enter into particulars at the present moment.

NICARAGUA CANAL—HAY-PAUNCEFOTE TREATY.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if any steps are being taken to revive the Hay-Pauncefote Treaty.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR (for Lord CRANBORNE): The Hay-Pauncefote Convention has lapsed, the time for ratification having expired. No steps are being taken by His Majesty's Government to revive the Convention, but they would be ready to consider in a friendly way any proposals made for that object by the Government of the United States.

SOMALILAND OPERATIONS.

MR. C. P. SCOTT (Lancashire, Leigh): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs when he will issue to Members Papers on British East Africa and on the recent operations in Somaliland.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Papers are being prepared and will be laid as soon as it is possible to include in them certain fuller reports on the recent operations in Jubaland which we expect shortly to receive.

WEST AFRICA—COST OF WARLIKE OPERATIONS.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON (Tower Hamlets, Poplar): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies what has been the total expenditure on warlike operations from 1895 to 1900, inclusive, in connection with the Colonies or hinterlands of Gambia, Sierra Leone, the Gold Coast, Lagos, and the Niger, respectively; and what has been the total cost of the West African Field Force up to date.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: The only expenditure on warlike operations separately recorded, apart from the cost of the various constabulary forces in the years 1895 to 1900, is that of £44,625 for the extra cost thrown upon Sierra Leone in respect of the operations in 1897–8 and that of £195,893 for the Gold Coast, the greater part of which is the cost of the Ashanti expedition of 1895–6. The cost of the recent Ashanti War is not yet ascertained, but will probably come to about £400,000. The total cost of the West African Frontier Force up to date has averaged about £180,000 per annum for the last four years.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: Will the hon. Member give the cost for each separate year?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I will endeavour to get the figures.

WEST AFRICA—GOLD-MINING OPERATIONS.

MR. LABOUCHERE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has observed that various companies have been formed to work gold reefs in parts of Western Africa within the dominions of His Majesty; whether the law which vests in the State all gold discovered in the United Kingdom holds good in these West African dominions; whether such companies pay a tax upon the gold that they extract from the soil; and, if so, what is the amount; and whether any steps are being taken to ensure that no natives shall be employed in these mines without their assent being obtained, their full comprehension of any contract into which they may enter being brought home to them, and security against their ill-treatment being provided.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I am advised that the law of England as to gold mines does not apply to the Gold Coast. Under the law of the Gold Coast, companies formed to work gold mines will pay a special tax of 5 per cent. per annum on their net profits. The law of the Gold Coast appears to provide sufficiently for the protection of persons employed in mining as at present carried on.

RHODESIA—NATIVE LABOUR.

MR. LABOUCHERE: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether it has been brought to his notice that certain black men inhabiting East Africa were induced by the Chartered Company of South Africa to enter into a contract to be transported to Rhodesia and to work in the mines there, and that on reaching Lorenco Marques they declined to proceed further; whether he can state what was the nature of the contract; whether the black men understood its stipulations; whether the Chartered Company of South Africa obtained the permission of His Majesty's Government to enter into it, and its provisions; and whether any supervision in regard to its conditions was exercised by British officials; and what has become of these black men.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I will answer this question in the absence of the noble Lord the Member for Rochester. The journey of the agents of the British South Africa Company to engage labourers in North-East Africa was undertaken with the consent of His Majesty's Government. As to this particular case, we are informed that a number of natives belonging to Jibuti in French territory came overland to Zeyla in British Somaliland, having been engaged as labourers for Rhodesia by one of these agents. Application was made by him to the Customs superintendent for permission to embark them, but this was only granted upon a promise by the agent that he would take them to Berbera, so that the Consul General might be satisfied before sanctioning their embarkation. This, however, for some reason as yet unexplained, the agent failed to do. On reaching Beira they became alarmed and refused to go any further, and a struggle took place, in which one native lost his life. The Portuguese authorities ordered an inquiry, the result of which we are awaiting; and a full explanation has been called for from the British South Africa Company. We have every reason to believe that the natives in their alarm were labouring under a misapprehension, but we are not aware of the terms of the contract, which presumably was made under French jurisdiction.

MR. LABOUCHERE: Will a copy of the contract be laid on the Table?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: Perhaps the hon. Gentleman will put any further question down.

PRESS COMMENTS ON PENDING TRIALS.

*MR. MARSHALL HALL (Lancashire, Southport): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he will introduce a short Bill making it a misdemeanour punishable on conviction by fine or imprisonment, or both, for any person to publish in the press or in any public manner whatsoever any comment upon any criminal charge or accusation made against any individual whilst the hearing or determination of such charge or accusation is pending either before a Court of Summary Jurisdiction or before a Court of Record.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. RITCHIE, Croydon): Comments in the press upon a criminal charge whilst the hearing is pending cannot, in my opinion, be too strongly condemned. I am now considering with the law officers whether the law as it stands is not sufficiently strong to deal with such cases as that referred to in the question.

PRESS INTERVIEWS WITH WITNESSES ON PENDING TRIALS.

MR. POWELL-WILLIAMS (Birmingham, S.): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney General whether his attention has been drawn to a practice adopted by representatives of some of the press of seeking interviews with persons who have been called, or who are about to be called, as witnesses in matters pending before the courts of justice, and of publishing the statements and answers to questions given by such persons; whether he has observed that these statements and answers have afterwards been used in court to discredit the sworn testimony of the persons from whom they were obtained; and whether he is prepared to take measures, by legislation if necessary, to put a stop to the practice referred to, and to any interference whatever with witnesses, as being calculated to impede the course of justice.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Sir ROBERT FINLAY, Inverness Burghs): My attention has been called to the fact referred to in the question. The practice mentioned in the first paragraph is a most objectionable one, and might, under certain circumstances, bring those concerned within the reach of the criminal law as it stands. The whole subject is under consideration.†

WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY AND LIFE SAVING ARRANGEMENTS.

SIR R. PENROSE FITZGERALD (Cambridge): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether the Admiralty authorities have decided to put up wireless telegraphy stations at Dover, Culver Cliff, Portland Bill, Rame Head, Scilly, and other places; and whether he can now hold out hopes that this system will be adopted without delay for life-saving purposes.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): I am informed that certain stations are being erected by the Admiralty along the coast to test the value of wireless telegraphy. I regret that I am not in a position to say more on the subject at present.

P. AND O. STEAMERS—ACCOMMODATION FOR LASCARS.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether any steps have yet been taken to require the Peninsular and Oriental Steamship Company to provide lascars employed on their vessels with accommodation equivalent to that to which European crews are entitled—namely, 72 cubic feet of space per man; and, in view of a statement made by the late President of the Board of Trade, can it be stated whether any action has yet been taken against the company by way of a test case to show whether or not the company has committed an infringement of the Merchant Shipping Act in providing lascars with less space than above indicated; and, if not, will he say when action will be taken.

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† Reference may be made to *The Parliamentary Debates*, First Series, Vol. vi., page 902. In 1806, Mr. Serjeant Best had obtained leave to bring in a Bill "to prevent the publication of *ex parte* evidence against persons accused of felonies and other crimes previous to trial." He explains the grounds on which he considered such a measure necessary, and his reasons for deciding, against his personal judgment, not to proceed with the Bill.—[ED.]

MR. GERALD BALFOUR said that the matter to which the hon. Member referred had not been lost sight of. The Peninsular and Oriental Company have taken steps by a petition of right, which has been fiated, to obtain an authoritative legal decision on the points that have arisen with regard to lascar crew space. An answer to this petition has been prepared by counsel, but I am not able to say definitely when the case will come on for hearing.

AVOCH CHANNEL BUOYS.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether the Northern Lighthouse Commissioners are yet in a position to state when they will be prepared to place lights on the five buoys which indicate the channel off Avoch, Ross-shire.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I understand that the lighting of the Avoch Buoys was not included by the Commissioners of Northern Lighthouses in the Estimates for the coming year, in consequence of the many more important works required on different parts of the coast, but that the matter will not be overlooked.

RAILWAY COMPANIES' BICYCLE RATES.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is aware that the railway companies continue to refuse to reduce the charges imposed on cyclists for the conveyance of bicycles, in spite of the recommendations of the Board of Trade and the views expressed by its late President to a deputation on the 11th of May last; and whether he will now introduce the legislation to which the late President of the Board then made reference.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I am not aware of any general reduction of charge adopted by the railway companies. I do not think my right hon. friend promised legislation on this subject, and I am not prepared to introduce such legislation.

MR. LOUGH: Has the right hon. Gentleman seen the answer of his predecessor?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: Yes, Sir.

IRON AND STEEL IMPORTS.

MR. CAINE (Cornwall, Camborne): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will extend the information with regard to iron and steel imports in the monthly Trade and Navigation Returns, by showing the imports of bar and angle iron, and unwrought steel, separated into the various countries from which more than 100 tons has been imported, as shown under the other heads of pig and puddled iron; and also give similar extensions under the various heads of iron and steel manufactures and machinery.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: The form of the monthly Trade and Navigation Returns cannot be changed during the course of the year without great inconvenience, but the hon. Member's suggestion will be referred to the Committee on the Revision of Trade Accounts which meets next autumn. Meanwhile it is possible for any person interested to obtain the information referred to in the question from the various monthly supplements to the London Bills of Entry issued by the Customs Department.

MR. CAINE: In view of the great interest felt in this matter up and down the country, cannot the Board of Trade give this information?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: It would be very inconvenient now to change the form. Anyone requiring the information can obtain it from the monthly supplement to the London Bills of Entry.

PONTEFRACT LOCOMOTIVE EXPLOSION.

MR. BELL (Derby): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if his attention has been called to the explosion of a locomotive while running a mineral train near Pontefract, on the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway on the night of the 11th instant, by which two men, the driver and fireman, were killed; can he state the number of the same type of locomotive possessed by the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company, and their steam pressure; and whether he will order an inspection to be made of all that class of locomotives on the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: The Board of Trade have ordered an inquiry into this accident. I am not at present prepared to make any further statement with regard to the matter.

HYDE PARK CORNER CARRIAGE WAY.

*Mr. MARSHALL HALL: I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works whether, during the session of Parliament, the carriage way between Hyde Park Corner and the Marble Arch and Victoria Gate can be kept open until 1 a.m. instead of being closed at midnight as at present.

The FIRST COMMISSIONER of WORKS (Mr. Akers Douglas, Kent, St. Augustine's): I am sorry that I do not see my way to adopt the suggestion of my hon. and learned friend.

MEMBERS' LOCKERS.

Mr. JOHN O'DONNELL (Mayo, S.): I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works whether, seeing that there are at present a number of Members who cannot get lockers, he will take steps to remove that inconvenience by providing such accommodation as soon as possible.

Mr. AKERS DOUGLAS: I hope it may be found possible to provide the additional accommodation suggested by the hon. Member.

THE PYX CHAPEL.

Mr. G. T. KENYON: I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works if he can state by whose authority the custody of the Pyx Chapel has been transferred from the Board of Trade to the Office of Works; what is the object gained by the transfer; and whether he can give any assurance that the chapel will not be submitted to any process of restoration, or improved away altogether, as was the case with the Rolls Chapel.

Mr. AKERS DOUGLAS: The transfer of the Pyx Chapel was made by leave of the President of the Board of Trade, with the approval of the First Lord of the Treasury. The object is to place the chapel in charge of the authority who has already the care of the Chapter House adjoining, and whose function it is to maintain buildings of national interest. The chapel will not be submitted to any process of restoration.

RICHMOND PARK.

Mr. SKEWES-COX (Surrey, Kingston): I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works if he will direct that attention be paid to the complaints made by the Kingston Municipal Society of the broken glass at present scattered about Richmond Park, and take steps to prevent as far as possible the practice of picnic parties leaving empty bottles and other litter in the park to the danger of ordinary visitors.

Mr. AKERS DOUGLAS: The matter referred to by my hon. friend has received attention. All that I can do to suitably and effectively prevent the nuisance complained of is already being done.

TRAPP (CARMARTHENSHIRE) NATIONAL SCHOOL.

Mr. ABEL THOMAS (Carmarthenshire, E.): I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education whether his attention has been called to the resolution passed at the last meeting of the Llandilo Urban District School Board with reference to the condition of the Trapp (Carmarthenshire) National School; whether he is aware that one master is in sole charge of the entire school, in which there are infants and children from the first to the sixth standard, who are taught in one and the same room; that owing to the condition of the school the average attendance during the last few months has diminished by nearly thirty per cent., and that some of these children have to walk a distance of four miles to go to another school; whether complaints have been received by the Committee of Education of this school for the last seven years; and whether he will state what he proposes to do in the matter.

THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Sir J. GORST, Cambridge University): As far as I have been able to inquire since the question was put down, no resolution has been received; there is at the school one master for some thirty-two children; there are two rooms. I have no information as to the diminution of average attendance in the last few months, nor as to the distance of other schools. No complaints, so far as I know, have been received; but I will make further inquiry.

BOARD SCHOOL SITES IN EAST LONDON—REHOUSING.

MR. THOMAS DEWAR (Tower Hamlets, St. George's): I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education whether he is aware that the London School Board have scheduled, for the purpose of erecting additional board schools, three sites in Barnsley Street, St. George's-in-the-East, and Arbour Square and Bromley Street, Stepney, comprising some of the best class of property in one of the most congested districts in London; and whether, seeing that the conversion of these sites into board schools will unhouse upwards of 300 people for whom no provision for rehousing has been made, he will commend to the consideration of the London School Board the necessity of finding other sites than those scheduled, which will not accentuate to so great an extent the housing problem in East London.

SIR J. GORST: The Inspector of the Board of Education is about to inquire into this question of sites.

MAJOR GORDON (Tower Hamlets, Stepney): I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education whether he can give the approximate number of school places at present required in St. George's, East, and Stepney Divisions of Tower Hamlets; whether he has information showing that the demand for such places is sufficient to justify the proposed destruction of house property in these neighbourhoods; whether he is aware that vacant sites and slum areas are available in the immediate vicinity; and whether the School Board can be compelled to utilise them.

SIR J. GORST: I have already said that this matter is being inquired into.

HIGHER ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS—WEST HAM SCHOOL BOARD.

MR. GRAY (West Ham, N.): I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education whether he is aware that on 3rd March, 1900, the School Board for the County Borough of West Ham asked for approval of arrangements for a higher grade school; that the Board of Education replied on 27th April requesting that the application should be renewed at a later date; that the application was renewed on 15th June, and the Board of Education wrote on 2nd August asking whether they understood the application to be for a higher grade or higher elementary school; whether he is aware that, in view of this suggestion, the West Ham Board asked on 28th September for approval for a higher elementary school in Harold road, and that, up to 7th March, 1901, no approval had been given; whether he can give the reasons for this delay of over twelve months; and, whether he will now facilitate the efforts of the West Ham School Board in their attempt to provide at least one higher elementary school in a town of 300,000 people.

SIR J. GORST: The West Ham School Board did not apply for the recognition of a higher elementary school at Harold Road until September 28th, and has not yet provided the information necessary to enable the Board of Education to come to a decision on their application. Further information was asked for by the Board of Education on October 18th. The answer to this inquiry was not received until January 28th, and the information it contained was still inadequate. A further communication has already been sent to the School Board.

HIGHER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MINUTE.

*SIR FRANCIS POWELL (Wigan): I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education whether the Minute of the Board establishing higher elementary schools without amendments will form part of and be published with the Education Code which will shortly be laid upon the Table.

SIR J. GORST: The answer is in the affirmative.

IRISH GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

MR. ARCHDALE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the full amount in proportion to acreage is expended in Ireland upon geological survey as is in England and Wales; if not, would he consider the advisability of expending the balance in preparing soil maps for the benefit of farmers and agriculturists in general.

SIR J. GORST: The expenditure of the geological survey does not depend on acreage at all. The Vote of Parliament is spent on the survey of the United Kingdom as a whole, and no balance is available for any other purpose.

FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE IN SUFFOLK.

MR. MALCOLM (Suffolk, Stowmarket): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture whether he is aware that the petty sessional division of Stowmarket has been closed as an infected area; and whether he will take immediate steps to have the restrictions removed, seeing that there has been no outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease within a radius of ten miles of the said division.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. HANBURY, Preston): The Stowmarket, Boxford, and parts of the Melford and Thingoe Petty Sessional Divisions were on February 27th added to the district originally scheduled because outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease had occurred in the west of Ipswich, and within six miles of the boundaries of those of the Stowmarket division. I fully realise the loss and inconvenience which the necessity of arresting the spread of the disease must entail upon a scheduled district, and though it would be premature to assume that the outbreak has been entirely suppressed, a case having occurred at Bradford as recently as March 7th, the outlook has, no doubt, improved, and I hope to be in a position soon to further modify the restrictions.

BUTTER ADULTERATION IN LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE.

MR. JOYCE (Limerick): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he can state how many samples of butter have been taken by inspectors under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, 1889, for the purpose of public analysis in Liverpool and Manchester respectively during the year 1900; also the number taken by inspectors during the same period in each of the towns of Cheshire having a population of 20,000 and upwards.

THE SECRETARY TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. GRANT LAWSON, Yorkshire, W.R., Thirsk): The Returns received by the Local Government Board do not relate to the number of samples taken, but to the number analysed. The number of samples of butter submitted for analysis last year was as follows:—Liverpool, 39; Manchester, 149; Birkenhead, 33; Stockport, 8; Chester, 6; Macclesfield, 3; Hyde, 17; Stalybridge, 5. There are two or three other places in the county of Chester with populations of over 20,000, but for these there are no separate Returns of samples analysed.

SALE OF DRUGS ACT, 1899.

MR. JOYCE: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board if he can state what steps have been taken by the Local Government Board or the Board of Agriculture, under Section 3, Sub-section (2) of the Sale of Drugs Act, 1899, to enforce the Act in places where the local authorities have failed to execute its provisions.

MR. GRANT LAWSON: The Local Government Board have not hitherto had occasion to take action under the sub-section referred to. I may explain that the Act came into operation on the 1st January, 1900, and that the Returns as to the proceedings taken by local authorities last year are only now coming in. As regards any action on the part of the Board of Agriculture, the question should be addressed to my right hon. friend the President of that Department.

DIVIDED MAGISTERIAL BENCHES.

MR. O'SHEE (Waterford, W.): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney General when a bench of magistrates in England happens to be evenly divided in opinion as to whether a case should be returned for trial or not, if he can state what action is usually taken; and if the case is brought up for consideration at a future session.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: I have made inquiries, but have been unable to hear of any English case in which there has been an equal division of opinion as to committal for trial. I am therefore unable to make any statement as to any usual practice in such an event, but think it very probable that if there should be a final difference of opinion, the case might be brought up for consideration on a future occasion.

CAPTAIN DONELAN (Cork, E.): Can the hon. Member say why the views of paid magistrates should carry more weight than those of unpaid magistrates?

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order!

TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION WITH SCOTLAND.

SIR JOHN LENG (Dundee): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he is aware that the commercial and manufacturing interests in Scotland complain of the frequent interruptions and in some cases the total collapse, of the telegraph service during the storms of the past winter, causing loss, and placing them at a disadvantage compared with their competitors on the Continent, and especially in Germany, where such interruptions are now, through the adoption of the underground system of telegraphy, unknown; whether he can state the relative length of underground telegraph lines in this country and in Germany; and whether it is proposed to extend the underground system from Birmingham to the north of England and Scotland, which have both suffered so much from the interruption of telegraphic communication during the last two winters.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.): The answer to the first part of the hon. Member's question is in the affirmative; but he is under a misapprehension in supposing that interruptions are unknown in Germany. On the 12th instant, the day when his question appeared on the Paper, eleven out of the twenty-two wires between this country and Germany were interrupted, and in no case was the interruption in this country. According to the latest statistics in the Postmaster General's possession, the length of underground line in Germany was about 3,940 miles, while in the United Kingdom there were at the same date 1,080 miles. The mileage of underground wire on the other hand was 26,750 for Germany and 40,600 for the United Kingdom. The Postmaster General proposes during the ensuing financial year to begin the construction of two additional sections of underground line to the North.

MARRIAGE GRATUITIES FOR POST OFFICE CLERKS.

MR. HENNIKER HEATON (Canterbury): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, if he can state what amount is provided for marriage gratuities to young ladies in the post offices and in the telegraph offices of the United Kingdom for 1901–2; will he explain why it is proposed to give £1,000 less this year than last year for marriage presents or gratuities to the ladies of the telegraph department; and is it estimated that there will be fewer marriages.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The amounts provided for marriage gratuities in the Estimates for 1901–2 are as follows: postal, £4,250; telegraph, £6,500. The reason why a reduced amount is provided for the telegraph service is that in the last two years there has been a falling-off in the expenditure, and the full amount voted by Parliament has not been required.

ENNISKILLEN POSTAL STAFF.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he is aware that, on 4th August, 1900, the Postmaster General stated that the male staff were suffering inconvenience in the discharge of their duties and that remedial measures were in progress; and whether, seeing that since that period the male staff has been reduced and the female staff increased, and that such alterations have worsened the duties and attendances of the male staff, steps will be taken to revise the arrangements with a view towards improvement.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: If the hon. Member refers to the Enniskillen office, it is not the case that the number of the permanent male staff has been reduced under the revision carried out in January last. The object of that revision was to readjust the attendances so as to admit of the staff having the proper interval of nine hours rest from duty, and this improvement has been effected. The services of a man employed temporarily previous to the revision were dispensed with, as it was found that an addition to the male staff was not justified, and that an increase of one in the permanent female staff would suffice. The number of men employed at Enniskillen is already somewhat above the average for an office of this class, and it is only on account of the early morning duties that the proportion of women employed has not been further increased.

ACHNASHEEN (ROSS-SHIRE) POST OFFICE.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, having regard to the fact that the people residing in the neighbourhood of Achnasheen, Ross-shire, have no office at which they can obtain money orders or cash postal orders nearer than Kinlochewe, which is distant ten miles, will he consider the expediency of arranging for the transaction of money order and savings bank business at Achnasheen post office.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The question of extending money order and savings bank business to the post office at Achnasheen, Ross-shire, is under the consideration of the Postmaster General, and he hopes that it will be found practicable to make the extension without requiring a money guarantee.

WHITTLESEA POST OFFICE.

MR. BRAND (Cambridgeshire, Wisbech): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether any steps have been decided in regard to premises for a new post office at Whittlesea.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: No decision has yet been arrived at in regard to a new post office at Whittlesea. Inquiry for suitable premises is still going on.

SCILLY ISLANDS.

MR. TAYLOR (Lancashire, Radcliffe): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether the Scilly Islands have been eased; and, if so, can he state the amount of the rental and the date of the termination of the lease.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: It is understood that the Scilly Islands have been leased at various times and for varying periods, but the particulars are not known to the Treasury, as Treasury sanction is not required for the leases.

PENNY POSTAGE STAMP COLOUR.

MR. TAYLOR: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether, seeing that the colour of the halfpenny postage stamp has been lately altered from red to green, to bring it into conformity with the colour of the corresponding values of other countries in the Postal Union, he will take steps to change the present colour of the penny postage stamp back again to its original colour of red now adopted by other countries in the Postal Union as that of their stamps of corresponding value.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: Although the Postmaster General sees certain advantages in uniformity of colour for stamps approximately the same value throughout the Postal Union, he does not think those advantages great enough to override all other considerations. As stated in reply to a question asked in this House by the hon. Member for Canterbury on the 11th instant, the Postmaster General is not satisfied that any sufficient reason exists for altering the colour of the penny stamp as suggested.

CONTINENTAL MAILS.

MR. COHEN (Islington, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he is aware that the afternoon mail train is frequently detained at Dover in consequence of the late arrival of the steam packet either from Calais or Ostend; and whether, with the view of saving a detention of mails and passengers at Dover, he will suggest to the South Eastern and Chatham Railway Company that the mails and passengers by the Ostend and Calais steamers should always be conveyed from Dover to London by the same railway route, so that each of the two trains shall leave Dover as soon as possible after the arrival of the steamer whose mails and passengers they would by this arrangement convey.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: Of the two trains from Dover which run in connection with the day mail packets from the Continent, one only, that going viâ Ashford, is under the control of the Postmaster General. He does not consider that special expense would be warranted in order to obtain control over the other train going viâ Chatham. Whenever it happens that the packet from Calais is late, the mail train viâ Ashford is detained until the arrival of that packet, which carries very heavy and important mails. When the Belgian packet, bringing much smaller mails, is late, the train in question waits only a short time for it. It is understood that the railway company detain the train going viâ Chatham in the same way as the mail train, and with this arrangement the Postmaster General has no power to interfere.

APPLECROSS (ROSS-SHIRE) ROADS.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether the Congested Districts Board have yet considered the expediency of providing funds for the construction of a road or footpath on the north coast of the parish of Applecross, Ross-shire; and, if not, will the matter receive the consideration of the Board.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire): I am informed by the Congested Districts Board that they have already granted 75 per cent. of the £130 required to complete the path round the north coast of Applecross.

MR. WEIR: Will the right hon. Gentleman use his influence to secure a further grant?

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: I cannot do anything now.

SCOTTISH CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate if he will state the number of acres of land purchased by the Congested Districts Board for Scotland since the establishment of the Board, and the total sum of purchase money paid.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: I have to state in reply to the hon. Member that the Congested Districts Board have made purchases of considerable areas of land for new settlements in two different parts of the congested area. Information as to these will duly appear in the Report of the Board for the year to 31st March next. Other negotiations are in contemplation, and it is inexpedient to give further information until the Report of the Board is in the hands of hon. Members.

MR. WEIR: Seeing that last session the issue of the Report was delayed several months, will the right hon. Gentleman take care that this year it is placed in the hands of Members earlier?

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: I am quite aware of the inconvenience caused by the delay last session. We have reason to hope it will not occur again.

TELEGRAPHIC ARRANGEMENTS AT SHAWBOST, STORNOWAY.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate, in view of the fact that the Postmaster General has stated that he is prepared to establish a telegraph office at Shawbost, Stornoway, under a guarantee of £27 per annum, and seeing that the Barvas Parish Council have signified their intention to guarantee half that amount, will the Congested Districts Board consider the expediency of providing the remaining half of the required guarantee.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: I am informed by the Congested Districts Board that the Barvas Parish Council have not yet approached them on the subjects referred to by the hon. Member, when they do so their proposal will be duly considered.

GLASGOW SMALL-POX EPIDEMIC.

MR. JOHN CAMPBELL (Armagh, S.): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate if he can state the number of cases of small-pox and the number of deaths from that epidemic in Glasgow up to date.

THE SOLICITOR GENERAL FOR SCOTLAND (Mr. SCOTT DICKSON, Glasgow, Bridgeton): I am informed by the Local Government Board for Scotland that from 22nd February, the date on which information was last supplied, in reply to the hon. Member, up to the 11th instant there have been 312 cases of small-pox and thirty-two deaths have occurred.

MR. BARTLEY: Can the hon. Gentleman say how many of the persons attacked were vaccinated?

MR. SCOTT DICKSON: I am afraid not.

SOLWAY FIRTH FISHERIES.

*MR. CLAUDE LOWTHER (Cumberland, Eskdale): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he can explain why no notice has been taken of the Report of the Royal Commission of 1895 on the Fisheries of the Solway Firth, recommending the purchase of the Scottish stake nets, and the establishment of uniform legislation on both sides of the estuary; and whether he can state if it is necessary to await a confirmation of that recommendation before taking steps to redress a grievance which is inflicting hardships on the Cumberland fishermen.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: As a Royal Commission is now sitting, it seems inexpedient to come to any decision as to further legislation until they have reported.

*MR. CLAUDE LOWTHER asked the First Lord of the Treasury whether he was aware that this Royal Commission had finished sitting, and whether he could inform him when the Commissioners were likely to make public their Report.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said that rested entirely with the Commission. He would inquire, if notice were given of he question.

LABOURERS' COTTAGES IN NORTH DUBLIN.

MR. CLANCY (Dublin County, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been directed to a resolution passed by the North Dublin District Council, at its meeting on the 6th inst., in which it is stated that it still takes two years to carry out a scheme for the erection of labourers' cottages; and whether he will take into consideration the advisability of proposing futher legislation with a view to shortening and cheapening the procedure to be adopted in the administration of the Labourers Acts in Ireland.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover): In some instances an interval of two years has elapsed between the commencement of proceedings under the Labourers Acts and building operations. The time taken depends to a great extent on the dimensions and nature of the schemes, which are frequently submitted by local authorities in an incomplete and imperfect manner, necessitating lengthy correspondence with the promoters. The Act of 1896 simplified and expedited the procedure, so far as it was considered expedient to do so.

MR. CLANCY: Will the right hon. Gentleman propose further legislation in the direction suggested?

MR. WYNDHAM: As at present advised, I think the Act of 1896 sufficiently meets the case.

DISMISSAL OF MULLOUGH POLICE OFFICERS.

MAJOR JAMESON (Clare, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that Police-sergeant Sheridan and Constable Mahony, of Mullough Police Station, have been dismissed the service for placing boycotting notices in the pocket of a man named Ryan and subsequently arresting him; and what steps do His Majesty's Government propose to take to safeguard the public against such practices on the part of the police.

MR. WYNDHAM: Sergeant Sheridan and Constable Mahony arrested on the 1st January at Mullough, county Clare, a man named John Ryan, alleging that they had observed him in the act of posting a threatening notice, and that subsequently they had discovered two other threatening notices in his pockets. He was brought before the resident magistrate at Miltown Malbay on the following morning and remanded from time to time until the 26th January, when he was discharged from custody on the ground that the evidence would not have secured a conviction. No other course could properly have been taken when the evidence brought forward was, in the opinion of the Crown, untrustworthy. These police officers were not discharged for placing the notices in the man's pocket. They were discharged for supporting a charge by evidence of a character so unsatisfactory and conflicting as to render their further retention in the force undesirable in the interests of the public.

MAJOR JAMESON: Is there any intention of prosecuting these two constables for illegal arrest?

MR. WYNDHAM: No, Sir. In their case, as in the case of Ryan, the Crown do not believe a conviction could be obtained. The evidence goes to show that though apparently the officers acted in collusion with regard to the man arrested, it was not sufficient to justify a prosecution.

MAJOR JAMESON: Will the Government grant a Select Committee to investigate this case, as was done in the case of Sergeant Malony of Limerick?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member must give notice of that.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: Is it customary to forthwith dismiss police officers simply because their evidence is untrustworthy? In view of the suspicion, which the right hon. Gentleman has admitted exists, that this case was concocted by the police, will he order a public inquiry into the whole circumstances?

MR. WYNDHAM: I think there is no need for that. I repeat that in the opinion of the Law Officers of the Crown the evidence is not sufficiently strong to justify a prosecution, but the conduct of the men was of such a character as we should not expect from officers in the discharge of their duty.

MR. WILLIAM JOHNSTON (Belfast, S.): Were these two officers Roman Catholics?

MR. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.): If the two policemen were innocent, why were they dismissed from the force?

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The matter cannot be thus debated across the floor of the House.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: Cannot you give them a command at Gibraltar?

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order!

BOARDING OUT PAUPER CHILDREN IN IRELAND.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state in how many poor law unions in Ireland the principle of boarding out the children has been adopted; and whether, in view of the spread of the system, he is prepared to appoint female inspectors as is the case in England.

The following question also appeared on the Paper:—

MR. JOHN CAMPBELL: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether, seeing that about 100 unions have adopted the boarding-out system, he will endeavour to have lady inspectors appointed to superintend and advise on the working of that system.

MR. WYNDHAM: Children are boarded out in 124 unions in Ireland; the number of children boarded out is about 2,000. The appointment of a female inspector, or inspectors, will be considered.

IRISH REFORMATORY AND INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that there are over 5,000 girls in the reformatory and industrial schools in Ireland, and whether the question of appointing female inspectors in connection with these institutions has been considered.

MR. WYNDHAM: The question of appointing a female assistant inspector of reformatory and industrial schools in Ireland was considered by my predecessor in 1899, when it was decided that the sphere of work in which a female assistant might be engaged was too limited, and that the services of a male assistant would be more advantageous to the Department. I am not aware that a female assistant is employed in connection with these schools in this country.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that there are more girls in Irish schools than in similar institutions in England? If we are permitted to discuss the action of the executive, I certainly shall raise this question.

VALUATION IN IRISH COUNTY BOROUGHS.

MR. FIELD: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the rule that is applied to the land in Ireland that the valuation should not be increased could be also applied to the county boroughs in respect to the new valuation, and whether, seeing that the gross valuation of Belfast city has been increased by 25 per cent., there is any reason why such tenements should not be reduced by that amount, so that the Imperial taxation would not be increased.

MR. WYNDHAM: Section 65 of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898, provides that land in county boroughs is to be valued in the same manner as houses. It cannot, therefore, be valued under the old Valuation Acts, which contained no provision for revising its value. There is no power under the Valuation Acts to reduce the valuation below the statutory basis.

VALUATION OF BELFAST LICENSED PREMISES.

MR. FIELD: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in regard to the valuation of licensed premises in Belfast, the value of the licence is assessed, and whether those premises are valued on the same basis as other business and private premises.

MR. WYNDHAM: Licensed premises in Belfast are now valued on the same basis as other business houses, with a sum representing the annual value of the licence added.

TYPHUS FEVER IN THE ARRAN ISLES.

MR. DUFFY (Galway, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that typhus fever has broken out in the Arran Isles, county Galway; whether complaints were made to the Local Government Board concerning the unsanitary state of the isles so long ago as last August; and whether the medical inspector of the Board entirely neglected his duties in not visiting the isles until about ten days ago, and whether he will cause an inquiry to be made into the conduct of this officer.

MR. WYNDHAM: The first and second paragraphs are a repetition of inquiries put to me by the same hon. Member and answered on the 28th ultimo. I also stated that the duty of taking steps to prevent outbreaks of fever devolves upon the local authority and not upon the medical inspector of the Local Government Board. That gentleman visits the Arran Islands as often as his other duties throughout the province of Connaught permit, and I am not aware that there is anything in his conduct calling for inquiry as suggested.

MR. DUFFY: But why did the inspector fail to visit the island until ten days ago?

MR. WYNDHAM: The duty devolved not on the inspector, but on the local authorities.

MULLINGAR LUNATIC ASYLUM CAPITATION GRANT.

MR. J. P. FARRELL (Longford, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state the amount paid for capitation in relief of rates for the service of Mullingar District Lunatic Asylum for the year ending 31st March, 1901; can he state how much of this sum was credited to the county Longford; and is he aware that serious complaint is made in county Longford of the taxation consequent upon the present management of the Mullingar Asylum.

MR. WYNDHAM: The amount paid for capitation grant in relief of rates for the service of this asylum for the year ending the 31st March, 1901, was £8,137 16s. 8d. Of this amount the sum of £2,045 8s. 3d. was credited to the county Longford. The management of the asylum is vested by the Local Government Act, 1898, in a joint committee comprising representatives from the three counties forming the asylum district—namely, Longford, Meath, and Westmeath. No specific complaints have reached Government on the subject of the management of the asylum.

OVOCA (CO. WICKLOW) EVICTION.

*MR. COGAN (Wicklow, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the police who assisted the sheriff at the eviction of a man named Foley, of Ovoca, county Wicklow, on the 4th instant, entered the house with revolvers presented at the tenant, who refused to leave, and threatened to shoot him if he resisted; that the only officer in charge of the police was a sergeant; that they made a prisoner of Foley and a man who was in the house with him; and that these two men are now in gaol on a charge of resisting the sheriff; and whether a sergeant of police has any power to order the use of firearms on such an occasion unless in the presence of a magistrate, and then not until the Riot Act has first been read.

MR. WYNDHAM: The sergeant entered the house with a revolver in his hand, but he did not present it at anyone or make use of threats. Three constables were present in charge of the sergeant. Foley and another occupant of the house resisted the sub-sheriff in the execution of his duty and attempted to strike that officer, as well as the sergeant, with a wooden pole. The two men were arrested; Foley has been remanded in custody, and the other man has been admitted to bail. A sergeant of police has power to order the use of firearms if in his judgment the necessity for such a course arises, even though a magistrate be not present and the Riot Act be not read. The Riot Act is a public caution and adds nothing to the powers of a peace officer.

RICHMOND DISTRICT ASYLUM.

MR. CLANCY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been directed to the views expressed by the Richmond District Asylum Committee in favour of the boarding out of certain pauper lunatics; and whether he will take steps to carry out the recommendations of the committee.

MR. WYNDHAM: Legislation would be necessary to give effect to the recommendations of the committee. The matter is now engaging the consideration of Government.

DOUGLAS NATIONAL SCHOOL.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL (Kerry, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the teacher of Douglas National School, Roll No. 12,875, District 54, sent early in January an order for books to the Board's stores, and has since got no reply; and that the manager of the school, who wrote more than three weeks since, complaining of the matter, has not yet got a reply; and whether, seeing that on 19th February a second order was sent from the same and no reply has yet been sent, steps will be taken to place this department on a businesslike footing.

MR. WYNDHAM: An order for books was received from this school on the 14th January, and the books were forwarded on the 17th January. Both the teacher and the manager were at once advised by post of the transmission of the books. A second order was received on the 20th February and the goods were forwarded on the 2nd instant. If there has been any delay (in the delivery of the goods, or letters of advice) the responsibility does not rest with the Commissioners' Department.

BELTURBET TO BALLYHAISE RAILWAY.

MR. M'GOVERN (Cavan, W.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether the railway from Belturbet to Ballyhaise is a separate railway or part of the Great Northern Railway of Ireland; is he aware that the Grand Jury of the county of Cavan, before this railway was constructed, gave a guarantee of 4 per cent. to the Great Northern Railway Company on the cost of construction; and, seeing that the ratepayers of the barony of Lower Loughtee are still paying this guarantee, although the Great Northern Railway Company is paying a dividend of 6¾ per cent. to its shareholders, will the Board of Trade hold an inquiry as to the right of this company being paid this guarantee any longer.

MR. WYNDHAM: At my right hon. friend's request I will reply to this question. The railway is part of the Great Northern system. The barony does not guarantee 4 per cent. on cost of construction, but only £340 towards any deficiency there may be in any one year after charging the accounts of the branch line with 4 per cent. interest on £30,000, the estimated capital and cost of working. For the year ended June, 1900, the receipts fell short of providing the working expenses and interest to the extent of £1,480, towards which the barony contributed £340, leaving a net loss to the Great Northern Company of £1,140.

ENNISKILLEN INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL.

MR. M'GOVERN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that, on the division of the Fermanagh Royal School Endowment, the first chairman of the Roman Catholic Local Board of Education gave a written undertaking, dated the 20th October, 1886, to spend half the Roman Catholic portion of the endowment in maintaining an intermediate school in Enniskillen; that, on the 3rd January, 1900, the present chairman of the Roman Catholic Local Board of Education, in a written statement to the Commissioners of Education, also undertook to have an intermediate school established in Enniskillen; and that, notwithstanding these undertakings, no steps have yet been taken to establish such a school; whether he is aware that the Fermanagh Roman Catholic Board, while alleging that they have no longer any power under a scheme of the 22nd May, 1891, to establish a new school, have opposed a petition of the Roman Catholics of county Fermanagh, to the Commissioners of Education, to have the scheme so altered as to provide for such a school at Enniskillen, and advised the Commissioners not to advise any alteration; and whether the Commissioners of Education will now recommend that the scheme of 22nd May, 1891, be so modified as to compel the Roman Catholic Local Board to carry out the undertakings referred to.

MR. WYNDHAM: The Commissioners of Education have no knowledge of any undertaking such as that mentioned in the first part of the question. But in January, 1900, a written statement was submitted to the Commissioners embodying a proposal of the Chairman of the Fermanagh Roman Catholic Board of Education to the effect that a guarantee fund would be locally raised with a view to the allocation of a fair share of the endowment to an intermediate school to be established in Enniskillen. So far as the Commissioners are aware that proposal was not accepted. The Fermanagh Board has no longer any power, under the scheme of 1891, to establish a new school. It has asked the Commissioners not to advise the alteration of the scheme. In answer to the third paragraph, the Commissioners in January of last year arrived at the conclusion that there were no grounds for applying to the Board of Charitable Donations and Bequests to make any change in the scheme.

POOR LAW SUPERANNUATION (IRELAND) BILL.

MR. MURNAGHAN (Tyrone, Mid): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the

Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Poor Law Officers' Association in Ireland have circulated amongst Members of this House a document containing the statement that the contributions proposed in the Poor Law Superannuation (Ireland) Bill will establish a fund sufficient to superannuate union official, sthereby relieving the ratepayers of all cost in the matter; that the correctness of such statement is denied, and the assertion made that the passage of the Bill would increase the rates; will he obtain expert opinion in respect to the financial proposals of the Bill, and give Members of Parliament from Ireland an opportunity to know approximately before the Bill comes on for Second Reading its probable effect on local rates; and inasmuch as the matter is of interest to the administrators of the poor law system, he will ask the Local Government Board to invite the opinion of boards of guardians throughout Ireland in respect to the proposals of the Poor Law Superannuation (Ireland) Bill.

MR. WYNDHAM: It is impossible to estimate the effect of the Bill on local rates, since I cannot judge how far existing officers would be likely to take advantage of its provisions. I see no objection to inviting the opinions of Boards of Guardians on the provisions of the Bill.

MR. MURNAGHAN: Will the right hon. Gentleman give directions for obtaining these opinions?

MR. WYNDHAM: Yes.

IRISH UNIONS—MEDICINE CONTRACTS.

MR. MURNAGHAN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Local Government Board recently submitted to the boards of guardians in Ireland a tender form for medicine contracts containing a provision to compel boards of guardians to return all empties or pay full value of same, the Local Government Board at the same time refusing to contribute from the grant in aid a proportionate share of the cost in connection with the proposed arrangement; and inasmuch as the present custom relieves boards of guardians of responsibility in the matter, will he suggest to the central authority the desirability of omitting from the tender form the provision referred to.

MR. WYNDHAM: The provision referred to was inserted in the form of tender in consequence of the negligence of union officials in returning empties. The arrangement appears to be an equitable one.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: Why do the Board take such interest in these contractors?

MR. T. M. HEALY: Because they are Protestants and Freemasons.

MR. WYNDHAM: The hon. Member misconceives the object. It is to get the best medicines at the lowest price.

MR. MURNAGHAN: Has any complaint been made of the quality of the medicines?

MR. WYNDHAM: I understand there were complaints as to some.

LAND SALES IN COUNTY WEXFORD.

CAPTAIN DONELAN: On behalf of the hon. Member for North Wexford, I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he is aware that arrangements have been come to for the sale to the occupying tenants of a number of holdings in county Wexford, in addition to those already sold to the tenants in that county; and whether, seeing that the proposed sales cannot now be carried out owing to the lack of money for the purposes of the Land Purchase (Ireland) Acts, he will make arrangements for the advancement of £500,000 for the purchase of holdings in county Wexford immediately.

MR. WYNDHAM: The answer to the first paragraph is in the affirmative. As already stated by me, no advances under the Land Purchase Acts can be made in the county Wexford pending the result of an investigation which has been ordered for the purpose of ascertaining whether the limit of advances of guaranteed land stock fixed by the Act of 1891 has been reached in the county.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: Can the right hon. Gentleman give us any idea when the result will be made known?

MR. WYNDHAM: I hope in ten days or a fortnight.

MR. T. M. HEALY: Do the Land Commission make inquiry before they issue the notice that the limit of advances has been reached?

MR. WYNDHAM was understood to reply that the limit was laid down in a Return issued in 1891.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL: And is one result of the Board's action the stoppage of voluntary purchases?

MR. WYNDHAM: No, Sir; they are not stopped.

IRISH MODEL SCHOOLS.

CAPTAIN DONELAN: On behalf of the hon. Member for North Wexford, I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he will consider the advisability of handing over the model schools in Ireland to their respective county authorities for the purpose of technical instruction.

MR. WYNDHAM: This matter was recently considered by the Commissioners of National Education, who did not feel themselves prepared to take any action in regard to it at present.

WEXFORD COUNTY OFFICIALS' SALARIES.

CAPTAIN DONELAN: On behalf of the hon. Member for North Wexford, I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether it is the intention of the Local Government Board for Ireland to hold an inquiry at Wexford with a view to the increasing of the salaries of certain county officials in respect of whom the previous action of the Local Government Board has been set aside at the instance of the county Wexford County Council by the Court of Appeal in Ireland; and if, in view of the importance of the case, he will see that the proposed local inquiry is not held until the judgments in the Court of Appeal and the affidavits on both sides have been printed and circulated as a Parliamentary Return, and that the inquiry is conducted in open court; and whether in view of the expense to which the ratepayers of county Wexford have been already put in upholding their rights in this matter, he will cause the expense of the proposed inquiry to be defrayed out of the funds at the disposal of the Local Government Board.

MR. WYNDHAM: The Local Government Board propose to hold a public inquiry at Wexford in connection with the salaries of certain officials in the county, and have asked the county council to state whether the 2nd April would be a convenient date on which to open the inquiry. The judgments of the Court of Appeal have been sent to the judges for revision before laying them on the Table of the House, and as the judges are at present on circuit some little delay may unavoidably occur before the judgments are returned. If it is possible to have them printed and circulated before the 2nd April, this will be done; but if not, the Local Government Board would be prepared, with the concurrence of the county council, to postpone the holding of the inquiry. In answer to the second paragraph, where the Local Government Board hold a local inquiry it is mandatory on the council, under Article 32 (3) of the Schedule to the Application of Enactments Order, 1898, to defray the costs incurred in relation to the inquiry.

MR. BOYLE (Donegal, W.): Will the right hon. Gentleman grant an inquiry to other county councils?

MR. BOYLE: In cases where the salaries have been increased?

MR. WYNDHAM: The cost will fall on the county councils.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: But in view of the peculiar circumstances attending the Wexford case, will the Local Government Board see that this county council shall not be put to further cost?

MR. WYNDHAM: I will consider that. I do not know if it is possible.

COUNTY DOWN POLICE.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the only Roman Catholic constable in county Down advanced within twelve months to the rank of acting-sergeant occupied a secretarial position in the office of the county inspector; and whether, as the proportion of promotions of non-Catholic constables has been six to one in a county in which Roman Catholic constables outnumber those of all other denominations, he will undertake that future recommendations for promotion in that county will be scrutinised so as to ensure that the religion of which the majority of the Royal Irish Constabulary are adherents will not be a barrier to preferment.

MR. WYNDHAM: Recommendations for promotion in the constabulary do not come before me, but I am assured by the Inspector General that such promotions are strictly governed by considerations of merit and not of religion

LIMERICK LAND COMMISSION SITTINGS.

MR. O'SHAUGHNESSY (Limerick, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to a resolution of the Kilmallock Rural District Council in reference to the decisions of the Chief Land Commission recently sitting in Limerick, raising the rents fixed by the Sub-Commission in 40 per cent. of the cases tried before them; and, if so, whether he will take steps to legislate in the matter, as indicated by this rural district council, during the present session.

MR. WYNDHAM: The number of fair rent appeals heard by the commissioners at their recent sitting in Limerick was ninety-six. Of these the rents fixed by the sub-commissioners were raised in fifty-three cases, and reduced or affirmed in forty-one. In two cases judgment was reserved. The answer to the last paragraph is in the negative.

MR. O'SHAUGHNESSY: Did the Chief Commission raise the rents fixed by the Sub-Commission?

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order!

ROXBOROUGH ROAD SCHOOL.

MR. JOYCE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Roxborough Road schools were built, with the exception of a sum of £50, by the ratepayers of the city and county of Limerick, nine-tenths of whom are Roman Catholics, and that the premises are vested in the Commissioners of Education in Ireland by Act of Parliament, with an express prohibition against selling or letting them; and, in view of the fact that the town council of Limerick by unanimous resolution protested against the uses to which these premises are now applied, will he state what steps he proposes to take in this matter.

MR. WYNDHAM: The cost of building the Roxborough Road schools was £1,672, of which the sum of £1,640 was presented by the grand juries of the county of Limerick and of the county of the city of Limerick. The premises are vested by statute in the Commissioners of Education in Ireland, to be held as part of the demesne belonging to the Diocesan Free School of the dioceses of Limerick, Killaloe, and Kilfenora inalienably, and not to be let or disposed of to any other use whatever. I have no information on the proportions of the religious denominations of the ratepayers of the city and county of Limerick. The town council by resolution dated 2nd September, 1897, protested against the uses to which the premises were applied. The Commissioners have acted under the law as administered by the Court of Chancery in reference to the management of trust property by trustees. The Government do not propose to take any action in the matter.

GORTIN SCHOOLS, COUNTY TYRONE.

MR. MURNAGHAN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he is aware that there is disappointment at the delay in completing the new schools in Gortin, county Tyrone, will he explain the cause of delay and take steps to have them finished as soon as possible.

MR. WYNDHAM: I am informed that these schools are practically complete and ready for the reception of pupils. The erection of the buildings was carried out by a contractor employed by the manager, and the responsibility for any delay in their construction does not attach to the Commissioners of National Education.

OMAGH RURAL DISTRICT RATES.

MR. MURNAGHAN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the local rates for the year 1901 in the Omagh Rural District of Tyrone are 30 per cent. higher than in 1897, on which the agricultural grant is based; can he say how much of this increase is necessitated by compliance with orders of the Local Government Board; and, as the additional burden is placed on the occupying tenants, the poorest class in the community, will he take into consideration the necessity of increasing the agricultural grant to an amount corresponding to half the increase since the standard year.

MR. WYNDHAM: The rates in this district for the current year show an increase of about 16 per cent. on the rates in the standard year. This increase is, I believe, of a temporary character; it was not caused by the Local Government Board, but is chiefly due to the payment of election expenses, and the expenditure generally incurred in bringing the Act of 1898 into operation. The Local Government Board anticipate that the new rates about to be made will show a considerable reduction (compared with rates for the current year), not only in Omagh but throughout Ireland.

MR. MURNAGHAN: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the new rate to which I desire to call attention is at least 35 per cent. over the standard rate, it being 4s. 3d. as compared with 2s. 11d?

MR. WYNDHAM: I have taken that into account.

PORTUMNA RAILWAY.

MR. ROCHE (Galway, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that Mr. B. C. Moloy stated to the Roscrea Board of Guardians that he had received a promise from the Government to increase the grant towards the re-equipment of the Portumna line from £12,000 to £18,000; and whether he will take steps to secure this grant being made.

MR. WYNDHAM: The reply to the first paragraph is in the negative; no such undertaking was given by the Government.

SMALL HOUSES ACQUISITION ACT.

MR. FIELD: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he would be willing to introduce an Amendment to the Small Houses Acquisition Act, Clause 2, sub-section (c), that the title to the ownership is one which an ordinary mortgagee would be willing to accept, and insert the word purchaser instead of mortgagee, and also modify Registration Clause 7 by removing the personal liability of the registrar, and the limit of time reduced to twelve years as under the Conveyancing Act.

MR. WYNDHAM: I have already informed the hon. Member that this Act, which became law in August, 1899, has been in operation in Ireland for so limited a time as to offer insufficient grounds for considering the question of further legislation. When the Government are in a position to form an opinion as to how far it would be desirable or possible, by legislation, to modify the machinery of the Act the suggestions of the hon. Member will be considered.

IRISH WORKHOUSE TEACHERS.

MR. JOHN CAMPBELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the national teachers in Irish workhouses labour under inequalities with their professional brethren in the matter of salary, promotion, compensation, and superannuation; and whether he will consider these grievances with a view to their redress.

MR. WYNDHAM: Teachers in workhouse schools are officers of the Board of Guardians, by whom they are appointed, and who fix their salaries with the approval of the Local Government Board. It is also competent to the guardians to grant to them, at their discretion, superannuation allowances. Workhouse teachers will be eligible for promotion under the new system of gradation with the general body of national teachers, but such promotion will not give them any right to increased remuneration unless the guardians with the approval of the Local Government Board think fit to grant such an increase.

WESTMEATH COUNTY COURTHOUSE

MR. HAYDEN (Roscommon, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Westmeath County Council has deputed to a committee its powers under The Agricultural and Technical Instruction Act (Ireland), 1899, which committee is known as the Westmeath Agricultural and Technical Instruction Society, and for the greater part consists of members of the county council, its place of meeting having been in the county courthouse; whether he is aware that, on Thursday, the 28th February last, the sub-sheriff had the doors of the council chamber locked against the committee and refused admission to the members on the ground that the room had been cleaned for the Grand Jury for the following day; whether a committee appointed under an Act of Parliament, and recognised by the Agricultural Department, was right in regarding itself as a committee of the county council, and as such entitled to the use of the courthouse when there was no interference with the administration of justice; and whether any steps will be taken to prevent a repetition of this exercise of the high sheriff's power of control over the courthouses, for the maintenance of which the ratepayers have to pay.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N.): I am aware that the county council has deputed its powers in the manner suggested to the committee named in the question. The committee was right in regarding itself as in effect a committee of the county council. The custody of the courthouse is, however, vested in the sheriff. The primary purpose for which that building is erected and maintained is the administration of justice. The right of the county council, or its committees, to the use of any portion of the courthouse for the execution of their duties is subsidiary to that purpose. The high sheriff was not only entitled, but bound to take such steps as in his judgment appeared necessary in order to prepare the courthouse for the discharge of the business of the assizes, and that is the action complained of. The reply to the last paragraph is, therefore, in the negative.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: At whose cost was the courthouse erected?

MR. ATKINSON: At the cost of the ratepayers.

MR. HAYDEN: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the grand jury were only to meet the following day. Does it take twenty-four hours to prepare the room for their reception?

MR. ATKINSON: I am not aware of that, but it was the duty of the high sheriff to see that the room was duly prepared for the assizes.

MR. FLAVIN: Then are the county council compelled to give up the courthouse notwithstanding they want it for the transaction of their business?

[No answer was returned.]

MAYOR OF WATERFORD AND THE COMMISSION OF ASSIZES.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney General for Ireland whether his attention has been called to the provisions in the great Charter of Charles I. to the City of Waterford, whereby it is secured to the mayor, sheriffs, and citizens of the county of the city, for the time being, that no other may be assigned to inquire into, hear, and determine, or to deliver the goal, or to discuss or order any other thing within the said city, except one or more justices of the one bench or the other, or the Master of the Rolls, or one or more Barons of the Exchequer of the Kingdom of Ireland, and that any such commissions, writs, precepts, or mandates made otherwise or to other persons shall be void and of no effect; and whether, under these circumstances, he will give directions that the mayor of the city be, in future, included in the Commissions of Assize.

MR. ATKINSON: My attention has been called to the Charter referred to, the passage from which is set out in the question with substantial accuracy. In the year 1887 the then Law Officers of the Crown in Ireland expressed the opinion that the privileges conferred by the Charter on the Mayor of Waterford were taken away by the thirty-second section of the Judicature (Ireland) Act, 1877, leaving the Crown free to omit the name of the mayor from the Commission of Assize. I concur in that opinion. The reply to the second part of the question is therefore in the negative.

MR. HEMPHILL (Tyrone, N.): Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that Lord Crewe, when Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, had the Mayor of Waterford reinstated in the Commission?

MR. ATKINSON: I do not see how that in any way arises out of the question on the Paper.

TULLAMORE ASSIZES—INSUFFICIENT BUSINESS—LARCENY OF QUINLAN'S ASS.

MR. REDDY (King's County, Birr): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the case of the larceny of Quinlan's ass, which was the only case to go before the grand jury at Tullamore assizes, and to the remarks of Mr. Justice Johnston in respect of the amount of expenses incurred; and will he direct the repayment of the expenses which fell on the ratepayers.

MR. DELANY (Queen's County, Ossory): At the same time, may I ask Mr. Attorney General for Ireland whether it has been brought to his notice that the calendar at the last King's County assizes consisted of only one criminal case, in which the grand jury found no bill, and that Mr. Justice Johnston stated that the case was a matter for civil action; and whether he will inform the House what official was responsible for sending the case forward to the assizes.

MR. ATKINSON: At the request of my right hon. friend, I will reply to these two questions together. My attention has been called to the reports published in the daily press of the remarks of Mr. Justice Johnston on the occasion referred to. I cannot say whether the report is accurate or not. I do not find any observation of the learned Judge as to a civil action such as is mentioned in the question. The magistrates at petty sessions returned the accused for trial to the assizes for larceny. The depositions disclosed a strong *prima facie* case for investigation by that grand jury. My colleague the Solicitor General for Ireland most properly, in my opinion, on the 18th February, 1901, in the ordinary course, directed the prosecution to be taken up by the Crown. The expenses of this, like those of all other cases taken in charge by the Crown, are paid by the Imperial Exchequer.

MR. REDDY: Is it not true that Mr. Justice Johnston censured the Crown Solicitor for bringing forward the case; and that he said he brought it on the express direction of the Attorney General, who the judge said ought to pay the costs?

MR. ATKINSON: I do not think the learned judge said anything of the kind.

MR. FLAVIN: Can the right hon. Gentleman say what was the age of Quinlan's ass?

MR. ROCHE: I desire to know if the right hon. Gentleman will act on the suggestion of the learned judge, namely, that when Quinlan's ass pays the debt of nature it shall be stuffed and kept carefully in the museum at Dublin?

ENNIS INTIMIDATION CASES.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that Messrs. Lynch and McInerney have been summoned to appear at the Ennis Petty Sessions on a charge of intimidation arising out of the question of direct labour by the Clare County Council, and whether, in view of the change recommended in the law (under which these prosecutions have been taken) by the Lord Chief Justice of Ireland, he will order these proceedings against

Messrs. Lynch and M'Inerney to be withdrawn.

Mr. ATKINSON: At the request of my right hon. friend I will reply to this question. The proceedings will not be further prosecuted.

BALLYBOGHILL POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS.

Mr. CLANCY: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he is aware that [the morning delivery of letters at Ballyboghill and Damastoun, a journey of scarcely two hours by road from Dublin, takes place at present about 12 noon; and whether there is any possibility of improving the postal service in that part of the county of Dublin.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The mails are due at the places named at 10.5 a.m. and 10.15 a.m. respectively, and the morning deliveries commence soon after those hours. In both cases the deliveries include the letters received in Dublin in the morning by the night mails from England. The cost of the postal services in both districts considerably exceeds the revenue from the correspondence, and the Postmaster General regrets that in the circumstances he would not be justified in incurring additional expenditure in either case, with the view of affording an improved postal service.

Mr. CLANCY: Then are we to understand that the public convenience is made dependent on the question whether or not the service will prove remunerative?

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: That is one of the circumstances which have to be weighed in considering whether postal facilities shall be extended in any particular place. There are of course other circumstances to be taken into account.

GOODS RATES ON IRISH RAILWAYS.

Mr. J. P. FARRELL: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether any complaints have recently been made to him of the railway rates on the Midland Great Western Railway of Ireland; whether he is aware that goods for rural parts of Ireland can be got cheaper from America direct to the ports of Sligo and Galway than per cross-channel steamer from Liverpool, and thence by rail; and whether he proposes to introduce any legislation to cheapen the cost of appeals to the Railway Commissioners.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: No complaints of the rates of this railway appear to have been received recently, but the Board of Trade will always be happy to consider specific complaints made in pursuance of Section 31 of the Railway and Canal Traffic Act, 1888. The answer to the last paragraph of the question is in the negative.

IRISH TEACHERS' QUALIFICATIONS FOR ENGLISH SCHOOLS.

Mr. T. M. HEALY: I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education if he can explain why Irish teachers trained for two years and certificated in second class are not recognised as certificated in England, while English teachers untrained but certificated in second class are recognised as certificated in Ireland, and are the examinations practically alike.

Sir J. GORST: The Irish system of examination and classification of teachers differs, I am told, materially from the English. The principle of the Board of Education is to recognise all Irish teachers who possess professional qualifications which are in their judgment equivalent to those required from teachers in England. I am not acquainted with the grounds on which the Education authorities in Ireland recognise English teachers.

Mr. T. M. HEALY: Will the right hon. Gentleman look into the matter? The examination papers seem to be pretty much alike.

Sir J. GORST: Yes, I will see if the qualifications required of Irish teachers are higher than those of English teachers. I have been told it is not so.

IRISH NATIONAL GALLERY.

CAPTAIN DONELAN: On behalf of the hon. Member for North Wexford, I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if, in view of the fact that large sums of money have been granted by Parliament under exceptional circumstances to buy pictures for the English National Gallery, while no money has ever been similarly granted to buy pictures for the Irish National Gallery, he will take the necessary steps to secure the Jan Vermeer, now being exhibited by Messrs. Forbes and Paterson in New Bond Street, for the Irish National Gallery.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not think it would be desirable to alter the present system of contribution to the Irish National Gallery. It is perfectly true that there has been a change such as the hon. Member suggests in connection with the English National Gallery, but that is consequent on and connected with a proceeding by which the annual sum given to the English National Gallery has been cut down by half.

LAW OF CONTEMPT OF COURT.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he is aware that, so far back as 24th October, 1882, the late Mr. Gladstone, then Prime Minister, declared that the Government had it in contemplation to submit at a very early period a measure dealing with the alteration of the present law of contempt of court; and whether, as no such measure has since that date been introduced, His Majesty's Government will now propose legislation on the subject.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Some method of dealing with contempt of court is necessary, but I do not know that any satisfactory change in the present law has been suggested. The hon. and learned Gentleman must have made some mistake as to the date of Mr. Gladstone's statement, as I cannot trace the reference.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: I will send the reference to the right hon. Gentleman.*

THE KING'S ACCESSION OATH.

MR. PIRIE: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury, with reference to the Oath taken by the Sovereign on accession to maintain and to preserve the Act of Security in the Treaty of Union between Scotland and England, which Act is declared to be a fundamental and essential condition of that Treaty in all time coming; whether, in view of the fact of this Act having been infringed by the abolition of theological tests for professors in secular classes in Scottish Universities, it is the intention of the Government to so change the Oath that it shall no longer be obligatory for the Sovereign to swear that he will maintain those tests which have been already abolished by Act of Parliament.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I am advised that no change in the Oath is rendered necessary under the circumstances suggested in the question.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if he can now make any definite statement as to the Committee to be appointed on the subject of the Sovereign's Accession Oath.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: As the hon. Member is aware, the proceedings in connection with this Committee originate in another place, and I am not at this moment in a position to make any statement on the subject.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): I wish to ask the Leader of the House what will be the business of the House next week.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: It must partly depend on the business to-morrow (Friday) and the progress made with the discussion on questions connected with the Army Estimates. I hope the House will make rapid progress, for the time when all the questions of Supply must be concluded is rapidly approaching. I hope hon. Gentlemen will consent, in the case of the Army Estimates, to the Speaker's leaving the Chair and giving the Government Votes A and 1 without delay. I am sure that the questions raised by the Secretary for War in his statement are of the greatest gravity and importance, and I shall feel it my duty to find later on such opportunities as may be necessary for adequate discussion of those far-reaching proposals.

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* See *The Parliamentary Debates* [Third Series], Vol. cclxxiv., page 36.

MR. O'DOWD (Sligo, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he can state on what date it is proposed to move Mr. Speaker out of the Chair for the purpose of discussing the Navy Estimates.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: This question should be addressed to the First Lord of the Treasury.

THE CIVIL LIST COMMITTEE—PUBLICATION OF CONFIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS.

COLONEL KENYON-SLANEY (Shropshire, Newport): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury a question of which I have given him private notice—namely, whether his attention has been called to the statement published in *The Times* to-day, purporting to give a full account of the proceedings of and the papers submitted to the Civil List Committee at their meeting yesterday; whether those proceedings and papers were not strictly confidential; and, if so, whether he can tell the House from what source such information has been obtained.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: My attention has been called to this incident. I regard it as in the highest degree deplorable and discreditable to the channel through which this communication was given to the public press.

MR. T. M. HEALY: As this is a purely English Committee, will the right hon. Gentleman consider the desirability of making it a purely Irish Committee?

MR. PIRIE: I wish to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if he intends to take any steps to discover the channel through which this communication got to *The Times*, or to take any steps against the paper for publishing it?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I am afraid I have no machinery at my disposal for carrying out the investigation which the hon. Gentleman suggests.

MR. BARTLEY: May I ask whether the document was not marked "private and confidential," and whether a similar private and confidential document was not published a short time ago—the Report of the Telephone Committee—in the same journal?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I believe I am right in saying that copies of the document which has been made public were marked "private and confidential." They were strictly limited in number, and were given only, as I understand, to members of the Committee.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: Will the right right hon. Gentleman take similar steps to those taken in the case of a confidential scheme which got into a newspaper a good many years ago, which led by a careful examination of misprints to fixing the responsibility and to the printing contract being taken away from the firm?

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee): Will the right hon. Gentleman consult the law officers as to whether the Official Secrets Act does not apply?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Perhaps the hon. and learned Member will put a question himself to the law officers, and give notice of it on the Paper.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have passed a Bill intituled, "An Act for the regulation of the burning of human remains, and to enable Burial Authorities to establish crematoria." Cremation Bill [Lords.]

IRELAND—CONDUCT OF POLICE IN COUNTY CLARE.

MAJOR JAMESON (Clare, W.): I rise to move the adjournment of the House to call attention to a matter of urgent and definite public importance, namely, the arrest and imprisonment of John Ryan, of Mullough, county Clare, on a false charge in reference to which a police sergeant and constable have been dismissed the service of the Royal Irish Constabulary.

*MR. SPEAKER: That does not appear to me to be other than an ordinary case of police court jurisdiction, and I do not think I can submit the motion.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I cannot go into the question as to whether any policemen were dismissed for trumping up a case against this man Ryan, but I would ask whether the interpretation you yourself have placed upon the rule as to motions for adjournment is not that the urgency and importance of the matter brought forward should be left to the decision of the House?

*MR. SPEAKER: There must be some *prima facie* ground for me to submit the motion to the House. It is usual in cases where there is any doubt to submit the point to me first, so that I may have an opportunity of considering it.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: My hon. friend will postpone his motion till to-morrow. In the meantime, I hope he will not be disqualified from submitting it to your judgment.

SUPPLY (ARMY ESTIMATES).

Order read, for resuming Adjourned Debate on Main Question [12th March], "That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair."

Question again proposed.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): The Estimates which are to be submitted when we go into Committee are of exceptional importance, and I think it would not be too much to say that the discussion of them may be almost characterised as momentous. I am confirmed in that opinion by the fact that the hon. Member for Great Yarmouth, speaking with the authority of one whose letters are admitted to the columns of *The Times*, the other day invited me and my hon. freinds to speak now or for ever be silent. The hon. and gallant Gentleman is perfectly right. This is an occasion on which we are bound to take exception, if we see it right to do so, to these great Estimates.

Now, last year the excess of the normal Estimates of the year over the preceding year ran to five millions; on this occasion they only, if I may use that word, amount to three and a half millions. In previous years of the present Government's administration they have built up the ordinary Estimates of the Army from eighteen millions to the figure at which they now stand—namely, twenty-nine millions. The Secretary for War said with great truth that we had become inured to these huge figures. We have been accustomed to them and do not realise what they are. It may be asked why, seeing that the actual increase is not so great as the increase last year, we did not make our protest last year. For that I think I can give two or three very excellent reasons. There are considerable differences between our position this year and last year. Last year our criticism was overborne by the fact of the emergencies which existed. I am not speaking at all of war expenditure. There has been no impediment placed upon any expenditure for the purposes of the war in order to bring it as soon as possible to a satisfactory and triumphant conclusion. I am speaking only of the normal Estimates. Last year we could not with a calm mind discuss the increase in the Estimates, because we were overborne by the consciousness of a great emergency, and the proposals of the Government were, by their own admission, of the nature of shifts and expedients to meet that emergency. The House, therefore, exercised great reserve, and many of us who had something to say held our peace. Now we are free from that necessity. I am not going to say that the war is over, or is on the eve of being over, but the great emergency, at all events, is over for the present. The hon. and gallant Gentleman the Member for Essex the other day referred to one or two of the proposals which have been carried out by way of increasing the military strength of this country, and I think he very properly raised a smile, almost, on the face of everyone who listened to him when he spoke of the Reserve battalions—the stout, elderly gentlemen of whom they are composed—and when he described the process, which has been going on quite recently, of hurrying on board ship at Southampton horseless and saddleless Yeomanry, who may be anything in the world, but are certainly not Yeomen.

Following the example of the hon. and gallant Gentleman, I think we may feel ourselves more free than we were to discuss some of these matters, but it is my intention in this debate to avoid as much as possible questions of detail, and to confine myself to the larger questions of military policy which have arisen. Another thing which makes a difference between this year and last year is this—that this year's proposal has been announced as a great epoch-making reform. It has been heralded by receiving a prominent place in the gracious Speech from the Throne. It was heralded before that by a good many speeches at the time of the General Election—that General Election, which will be an inexhaustible topic for all those who wish to understand the methods of the present Government. It is an object-lesson which we are not likely soon to forget. Success does not always justify the methods that are used to obtain it. We were told that if the country would only place confidence in the right hon. Gentleman opposite there would be a permanent solution of the great military problem. Does any one see an element of finality or permanence in the proposals that are now brought forward? It is true that the right hon. Gentleman has only been three or four months in office, but as we are all aware he is perhaps more familiar than any other individual among us with all questions of military policy, and the accident of his having been engaged in another department for a year or two does not prevent him from being in all respects most excellently qualified to deal with the problem. His principal adviser, the Commander-in-Chief, has, however, only been in office for a few months. We have the most intense admiration for and gratitude to Lord Roberts, and there is probably no man at the present moment to whose opinion on ordinary military subjects the country would be more willing to bow. At the same time, I must make this observation—that I think Lord Roberts's name and fame are a little too largely invoked. There is a rule of this House prohibiting hon. Members from introducing into debate the name of the Sovereign; I almost think, sometimes, that we ought to extend that rule to include the Commander-in-Chief. Even Lord Roberts's great services and career ought not to dazzle us and blind us to such obvious mistakes, if they exist. I am aware that occasions may arise when the opinion of a leading military expert may be quoted in substantiation of that which a Minister states in this House. I remember one occasion when I adopted that course myself; but the judgment which I quoted from my principal military authority was scouted as of no effect whatever. Here it is a little worse, because the authority of the Commander-in-Chief is constantly being brought in, and I venture to say it is neither fair to Lord Roberts himself, nor is it altogether proper in relation to Parliament. We must remember this, that the Commander-in-Chief has passed nearly the whole of his military life in India, in what I may call dealing with the finished article. He is an immense authority on everything connected with the use of troops; but, from the necessity of the case, he has had as yet no experience, no individual personal knowledge, of the peculiar difficulties that are found in this country in furnishing the raw material out of which the finished article is made, the precise force we have to maintain, the social and local susceptibilities we have to consider, and the sensitive market from which that raw material is drawn. All these matters an officer, however distinguished, who has been all his career in India can have no acquaintance with. Lord Roberts has just come home from a great command, where he has greatly added not only to his fame, but also to his knowledge of the British Army. But I think that if we are to be guided by what we call the lessons of the war great caution must be used. The conditions of this war are in many respects most exceptional—exceptional in the demands made upon us, exceptional in the nature of the warfare. Where else are we likely to be called upon to fight, not an army, but a whole population, with all the manhood of the people skilled in the use of horse and rifle and well found in both? Where shall we find a country at all similar to the scene of operations? We shall therefore incur risk of being warped and vitiated in our whole military system if we frame it to meet a series of repetitions of this war in South Africa. There are, of course, numbers of lessons to be drawn, and no one is more capable of suggesting them to the right hon. Gentleman than the present Commander-in-Chief—I mean in regard to the efficiency of our weapons, in regard to our mobilisation and transport arrangements, the character of our equipment, and the training of officers and men. On those and kindred subjects Lord Roberts can very rightly advise us, but we must not proceed on the supposition that any future war will be similar to this one, and I think we should do well to look with suspicion on any proposal that bears a trace of that error.

Another circumstance gives special importance to these Estimates. It is this—that this is a new departure; this is a new declaration of policy. In the first place, the Government proposes to add an army corps to the scheme of the Army, and that army corps is destined not to the domestic defence of these islands, but to be sent abroad. And, in the second place, the right hon. Gentleman took up an ominous attitude with regard to compulsory service, because he let us see plainly that, although he objects to compulsion, yet, if voluntary recruiting fails to furnish the men required for his scheme and if the scheme therefore comes into conflict with the right hon. Gentleman's objections, it will not be the scheme that will be made to yield, it will be his objections. There is much shaking of the head now over the possibility of the exhaustion of our military recruiting resources. By and by there will be much shrugging of shoulders when we are told that that eventuality has actually occurred. This has been plainly indicated by the right hon. Gentleman, and it marks a totally new departure from anything that has gone before. I take exception to the proposals of the right hon. Gentleman and of the Government on both grounds. I hold that no adequate justification has been offered for this new army corps, and I hold that conscription in any form will not be endured by our people, and ought not to be imposed upon them; and, further, if it were imposed, it is inapplicable to the peculiar military requirements of our Empire. What reason does the right hon. Gentleman offer for this new army corps for foreign service? He discards the idea that a wise foreign policy may keep us out of trouble. Our neighbours, he says, have an eye to our wealth; the goodwill and forbearance of foreign Powers are a mere quicksand to the right hon. Gentleman. And he says this, remember, on behalf of his Majesty's Government. I am quoting his own words. There are two continents besides Africa in which he says we have great "commitments"—great interests to defend. I should like to have a little more information about this; and then he speaks of European "entanglements." Entanglements is not a nice word. The last time we heard of it was at Ladysmith, and it arose in some degree, at any rate, on that occasion from a rash promise made by the Imperial Government, and it is the same Government now which again speaks of entanglements. The right hon. Gentleman says—

> "We cannot suppose that, if ever we should unhappily become entangled in European complications, we could fulfil our engagements to our allies by limiting our operations solely to the action of our Fleet, keeping our soldiers in barracks at home."

What is all this cloudy talk about entanglements and commitments and allies? We have a right to know before any of this money is voted. Here is a great additional burden proposed to be put upon the taxpayers, and as a matter of fairness to the taxpayers they ought to be informed. If we do not ask for this now we shall be told afterwards that we were consenting parties. This air of "I could an' if I would" say something will not do in a matter so grave. I believe that either such hints are serious, and in that case they should be made more explicit, or they are mere mischievous trifling. Some readjustment of the units of the Army is a trifle, neither here nor there, but these indications of Imperial necessities are momentous. Indeed, if I were to guess at what is indicated when we hear of one continent after another where we have great commitments, it is not three but thirteen army corps that would be required. Let me say this. As we are here within four walls and nothing can get outside, we can afford to talk with perfect frankness and sincerity. What is an army corps in this country? Sir, the expression "army corps" is like the great word Mesopotamia—it is a blessed word. It deludes the earnest and it imposes on the simple. But in this case "army corps" has another feature. In this country an army corps is a pure fiction. It is convenient for purposes of administration; it is a useful thing—to use the regular phrase—to work up to, but it has no other value. No army corps was ever put on board ship to leave this country, and I doubt if it ever will be.

*SIR HERBERT MAXWELL (Wigton): We have sent out six to South Africa and we had two at Waterloo.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: In the form of an army corps? The right hon. Gentleman says with perfect truth that during this war we have sent out to South Africa the equivalent of six army corps, but not a single army corps constituted as such. In other countries it is quite different. In Continental countries the army corps has a reality it can never have here. There it is localised and stereotyped; and, as they have no drafts and no reliefs to send to foreign garrisons, it can be maintained rigidly, and, when the necessity comes, marched off to the front. Let the House never forget this—ours is necessarily what I should call a fluid Army. The units must be interchangeable and elastic. The composition of the force which leaves this country will have to be adjusted to the necessities of the particular climate of the country and campaign in which it will be employed. That is not so in the case of Germany or France, where the army corps have to march over the frontier into a country homogeneous with their own and in all particulars familiar to them. Therefore the alarming proposal is not the creation of a new army corps, which has no terrors for me, knowing the nature of the word: it is not the mere fact that some military units are in future to be known by another name; the alarming thing is the recognition shown here of some great military purpose. But the right hon. Gentleman did not stop there. He quoted the saying, I think, of Lord Palmerston, "We are not a military nation, but a fighting people." I think he attributed it to Lord Palmerston.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (MR. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): I have since been told it was Mr. Gladstone who said "We are not a military people," and Mr. Disraeli replied, "But we are a martial race."

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: The right hon. Gentleman then went on to say—"We may be a fighting race, but it is only by accident that we are a military nation; we have to consider how we can turn that accident into a permanent fact." Therefore it is not only entanglements and commitments that we have before us, but a transformation of the national character. I venture to say this is running counter to the whole genius and traditions of our people. Our position in the world has been made and is held by commerce and peace and amity; it must be maintained in the same manner, and not by the stirring up of the military spirit. Moreover, if ever there was a moment less desirable than another when the energies of our people should be diverted into a military channel, it is now, when it will require all the energy and enterprise of our people to maintain our predominant and pre-eminent position in the industry of the world.

What is the true military policy for this country which has been pursued by all wise statesmen of the past? In the first place it should be a complete defence of our shores. There is the Navy, of course, everybody knows that, but behind the Navy there must be an adequate Army for home defence. For this purpose nothing will be grudged, no demand will be refused. Therefore, the first thing is to increase the efficiency of the defensive force. It by no means follows that you must increase its number. I am not sure that in some parts of it a little pruning away of numbers would not be advantageous, provided the remainder was increased greatly in efficiency. In that case, I should be glad to support anything the Government proposes for such a purpose as that, admitting that we have been found rather deficient in proper provision in this respect, as the last few months may be said to have shown. The second thing we have to do is to provide adequate garrisons for the Empire where they are required. The right hon. Gentleman makes two proposals in regard to this. In the first place he speaks of twelve battalions being a sufficient garrison for South Africa. I should be very glad to be able to take so hopeful a view. If twelve battalions are sufficient for that purpose it will show that our policy of settlement after the war had been based on the proper and wise foundation. But I think it is rather a sanguine proceeding deliberately to speak of twelve battalions as the normal military force for South Africa. Then he proposes to hand over from the Army to the Navy certain coaling stations. I am one of those who, looking at the matter mainly from the point of view I have been most accustomed to—namely, the interests of the Army—have often expressed adhesion to that policy. But the Navy almost to a man are in deadly opposition to it, and I do think the right hon. Gentleman had no right to come here and speak of that as a feature of his scheme when he tells us at the same time that the Admiralty has not yet agreed to it. I was taught in the earliest days of my public official life that the last thing you should do was to support your own Department by compromising another. If, for instance, a Minister thinks that something should be done and the Treasury imposes obstacles, he should never—is it allowable to use the word "round"? [laughter]—he should never "round" upon the Treasury by exposing that fact, but should accept the responsibility and be loyal to the other Departments. But I cannot say that in this matter the right hon. Gentleman has acted up to that high standard. The last point in sound military policy is that we must have a sufficient force, properly equipped to reinforce our garrisons, and for any emergency wherever an expeditionary force is required. This is the point, undoubtedly, upon which opinions will most differ as to the strength of the force which it is desirable to maintain for these purposes; but all I say is this, on what possible ground should you in this matter base yourself upon the experiences of this exceptional Boer war? Why should you expect to have such a demand made upon us again as has been made during the last two years? The proper thing to do is to avoid the necessity of sending large forces abroad; to trust more to judicious diplomacy; and I am bound to say that for the last five or six years we have seen one occasion after another where that course has not been followed.

Now I come to the great question which is really the *crux* of the whole matter. The right hon. Gentleman proposes to raise a certain force in skeleton. How is that force to be maintained? How is he to secure that recruits will be forthcoming for it? I am rather surprised that there was very little said on this subject in the speech of the right hon. Gentleman. I am rather surprised that the right hon. Gentleman gave us no information whatever as to the number of recruits required for the several branches of the service. Surely he must have thought it out and fortified himself with an actuarial calculation as to the recruits. That should present no difficulty to him, because my experience leads me to believe that actuarial calculations can be made to prove almost anything. Let us have next an actuarial calculation of the number of recruits. There is no difficulty whatever in procuring plenty of recruits in time of war. The enterprising spirit is rife enough then to induce men to go to the front, and we will always obtain them. It is the listless, dull, anxious, irksome duties of the soldier in time of peace which fail to attract. I do not think there is any Member of the House or any man outside the House who has devoted much attention to this subject who does not see that the whole of our future system depends upon the possibility of obtaining recruits. What, then, are we to do? If the scheme of your Army is too great for your resources, then you have two things that you can do—pursue a less aggressive policy abroad and at the same time offer greater attractions to recruits. But do not flatter yourselves that you have as a safe ultimate resource the application of compulsory service. I am not going to recite the well-known arguments against compulsory service upon the grounds of political right and social convenience. Nor will I dwell upon the strain on the industrial resources of the country which would necessarily come from the employment of it, because that strain is not easily assessed in figures. I take a much less ambitious view. Putting aside all questions either of principle or convenience, I ask is a compulsory system practicable in this country? In the first place it is inapplicable to the whole portion of our Army stationed in foreign peace camps. The German force in China is composed entirely of volunteers; not a single man is there because he is a conscript. There may be some justification for taking a man away from his home and family and occupation and making him serve in some barracks in order that he may be trained into an effective defender of his country. That we can understand. But you can never send such a man to the plains of India, or the veldt of South Africa, or even to the Rock of Gibraltar, in time of peace. You can do it for home defence only, and that brings me to the proposal that there should be a ballot for the Militia. Those who talk about a ballot for the Militia should read up the history of the subject and they will see what happened in regard to it in past years. We have only to look up the text-books to see its anomalies and its inequalities, and the difficulties necessarily placed by it in the way of recruiting for the Regular foreign-going Army. The system has been tried and abandoned. I am speaking, of course, of the Militia ballot—that is to say, the system of taking one man and leaving another. One man is to be chosen by some process of luck, and he is to be made to serve, while his neighbour escapes. Perhaps the man who is taken away is the very man who does not want to go, and perhaps the man who is left behind is the very man who would like to go. The old way was that you allowed the man chosen to purchase a substitute. That is where the system came into conflict with the recruiting for the Regular Army. I ask can anything be more grossly unfair than the system of purchasing substitutes? How is the poor man, to whom it is just as great a hardship—perhaps greater—as to the well-to-do man to be taken away, to purchase a substitute, while his richer neighbour is well able to do so? There must be universal compulsory service if you have it at all.

Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.

Let us think for a moment what compulsory service means. The first objection to universal military service is that it would give you a vastly larger number of soldiers than you could possibly require or employ. We are not in the position of Continental nations. Continental nations, whether it be Switzerland, Austria, Germany, or any other, are surrounded by other nations with huge armies, who could in the case of war be hurled across the frontier—an almost interminable crowd of armed men. Therefore each of these countries must put every man it can possibly lay hands upon into the ranks. But we are in a different position altogether. We have the sea; and our command of the sea depends upon our Navy. If the Navy is destroyed, what then? I will not pursue that further. No defensive army you could ever have could save you from disaster. But supposing the Fleet is inveigled away to the West Indies, or somewhere else, as in the old days, or supposing it meets with some disaster so that the shores of the country are left practically undefended for some days. Why, skilled soldiers and sailors will tell you exactly the number of men who could be landed upon our shores in these circumstances, and they will proceed further to tell you the smallest number of men that you must have to deal with those who are landed, so that there is a limit to the number of soldiers you can profitably employ in these circumstances; and if you have a great mob of untrained men, or even of efficiently trained men, they would only be treading on each other's heels, and would not be required for a purpose of that nature—the purpose of defence. Therefore, on all grounds, it seems to me that if you look quietly at it you will see that the system of conscription is totally inapplicable, as well as politically intolerable, in this country; and in so far as, not so much the proposals of the Government as the hints and indications of the right hon. Gentleman pointed to such a future policy, I must say that I will reject it and abjure it in advance.

The right hon. Gentleman the Secretary of State is postponing the thorny question of the constitution of the War Office. The War Office has a curious effect upon some minds. For instance, the hon. and gallant Member for the Chelmford Division of Essex attributes every evil thing to the War Office. I should like to ask him whom does he mean by the War Office? You must have a War Office of some sort. What is the particular habitat of the ogre the hon. and gallant Gentleman finds in Pall Mall? There are three elements in the War Office. There are distinguished officers and their subordinates, there are a number of civilians, and there are a few political officials. Which of these elements is objectionable? The soldiers are presumably the best that can be found in the Army. They are men who have come to the front, and I will say boldly that for the last ten or twenty years you will not find anywhere men more qualified for their positions than the soldiers who have held high posts in the War Office. How they arrange their duties among themselves is a question which may be postponed to a more convenient season, especially as, I believe, it is going to be threshed out, or, to borrow a word from the hon. and gallant Member for the Chelmsford Division, washed out, to-morrow in another place.

Now I come to the civilians. I have often heard it said, What chance has the Army when the whole thing is governed by a pack of civilians at the War Office? But it is an odd thing that it has always been so. There has always been a large number of civilians employed in the administration, and especially in the financial business, of the War Office. It was so in the Duke of Wellington's time, and he has held in passages which have come down to us that it is the proper constitutional system. It has always been considered desirable—and I put this very strongly to the House—that the Secretary of State should have a number of men trained and experienced in their duties, which are in no sense military duties, but, at the same time, independent of prejudices and inclinations of a military kind, and ready to point out when occasion offers any encroachment on the civil rights of the people. It is not only a question of good administration. There is also a constitutional question in it, and although the right hon. Gentleman seems to be setting himself to diminish the influence of civilians in the War Office, I venture to say that that is a departure from the old constitutional system which satisfied the Duke of Wellington, and which, having satisfied him, may very well satisfy those who come after him. Those clerks in the War Office do not take notice of any military duties; they deal with military subjects it is true, but only the civil aspects of them. In this war, so far as I have observed or been informed, nothing but admiration is deserved by the civilian branches of the War Office for the manner in which all the purchases of supplies and stores and everything else that was required have been conducted. Some, indeed, among them ought, I think, to be placed on a higher pedestal. Some of them obtain great experience and knowledge of military subjects, quite as great as any distinguished military officer can have.

The right hon. Gentleman referred, very justly, to the reforms introduced and carried out by Lord Cardwell, and, being a survival of that effort, I thank him on behalf of the memory of my friend Lord Cardwell for the way in which he spoke of his work. But those reforms were not allowed to sleep in the meanwhile. They were sympathetically developed by the father of the noble Lord opposite, the present Lord Derby, and by Mr. Stanhope, and I would mention especially that Mr. Childers was the author of that territorial connection of the Auxiliary Forces which, I believe, has, almost more than anything else, created the zeal and enthusiasm which we have seen in this country during the past year or two. It is to them that we owe what has been done—the sending of this great force to South Africa. There is now leaving the War Office at the close of his career a civilian clerk, Sir Ralph Knox, to whom, perhaps more than any one man, the institution and success of that whole scheme of reform is due. I remember seeing a paper written by him in the early days of 1870, before the scheme had ever been considered by the higher authorities within the War Office itself, in which he marked down, with a nicety and exactness which is perfectly marvellous, all the ramifications of the proposals and everything connected with this great scheme of localisation and organisation for adding to the efficiency of the Army. That was done by a civilian clerk. Now I come to the political officers. What about them? I would suggest to the hon. Member for the Chelmsford Division that he should direct his sarcasms against the political officers instead of denouncing that abstract entity the War Office, which may mean anybody or nobody, and apply his epithets to the Minister who undoubtedly is responsible, and who, as we know, is not one to refuse responsibility; and here, at all events, in the House of Commons, the Minister must be made answerable. For my part, while reserving any detailed criticism of the plan now unfolded, I must announce my dissent from it on the broad grounds that it indicates a departure from the prudent policy formerly pursued, and the introduction of a military spirit and military system which would fatally alter the character of our nation and Empire.

*COLONEL WARDE (Kent, Medway) said he wished to make a few remarks on that branch of the military forces in which, for the time being, he was more intimately connected. He meant the Yeomanry cavalry. He should be doing scant justice to that force if he did not frankly acknowledge the considerate and consistent support it had received from the War Minister for some years past, sometimes when it was very much underrated by the country. He could only suppose that the Yeomanry cavalry had always done its work so modestly that the country had not realised their value. He would remind hon. Members of what happened last year. In the beginning of last year it was suddenly discovered that the war could not be carried through successfully without a large force of mounted infantry. The Government offered a very modest sum to the officers of the Yeomanry, and they provided for the country a force of 12,000 men fully equipped. He need not remind the House of the services that were rendered by that force. He congratulated his right hon. friend the Secretary of State for War on the speech he made, expounding the alterations which were proposed in the organisation of the Army. It was true that there was no reference in it to the absurd system of brigading two regiments together in order to make one adjutant do the work of both, and thereby effect an economy of staff. The right hon. Gentleman did not say whether an annual course of musketry was to be included in the training, or what, if any, place the Yeomanry were to have in the army corps now being brought into existence. These, although perhaps important questions, were more or less matters of detail.

The question that must most affect the future of the force was its divorce from that branch of the service with which it had been hitherto connected—namely, the cavalry. The first recommendation of the Committee of Yeomanry Officers, the formation of which his right hon. friend had himself asked for, was that the force should continue to be called the Yeomanry Cavalry or the Imperial Yeomanry Cavalry. In the first statement of the right hon. Gentleman made with regard to this new force, he utterly ignored the first recommendation made by the committee. In the opinion of the hon. and gallant Member, "the experience of the South African War" was a hobby that was being ridden to death. No doubt we had a great deal to learn from the South African War. We had never in the history of the Empire had to conduct such a war before, in a country devoid of enclosures, where the rifleman's range was only limited by the power of the eye, and in an atmosphere where the eye could discern objects double the distance possible in a European climate. They might never have to conduct such a campaign again. The Yeomanry had never been called upon to take part in a campaign abroad before, and might never be again. It might be that at some future period we might find ourselves at war with a European Power, and the country might be denuded of cavalry altogether, and in that event the Yeomanry would be our only cavalry reserve. A distinguished officer some years ago stated that if the country was at war, and one ship laden with grain was captured by the enemy, the panic would be so great in the City that bread would go up in price 500 per cent. In such a case it was possible that the Yeomanry might be called upon to suppress bread riots. Of what avail would a rifle be then? In his humble opinion the best weapon that could be used for such a purpose was the sword. Cavalry could always be converted into mounted infantry, but mounted infantry could not be converted into even indifferent cavalry. The experience of the war had proved this. Most of the cavalry regiments that had gone to South Africa had been armed with rifles instead of lances, but he doubted whether any War Minister or Commander-in-Chief would ever admit that we could do away with cavalry on all occasions. There was no other cavalry reserve except the Yeomanry, and it would be a mistaken policy to divorce it from that branch of the service. The country did not realise how valuable the Yeomanry were, but from his experience he felt confident that if they were out for six months in the year, that force would be able to march round most regiments of Regulars. It would be found that the Imperial Yeomanry in South Africa had been used more for cavalry than mounted infantry purpose. At any rate, the Yeomanry had now established a claim on the country; they had vindicated their existence; and he hoped the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary of State for War was not going to desert them. He earnestly urged the right hon. Gentleman to inquire carefully before committing himself to a policy which, in the opinion of a great many experienced Yeomen, would go far to destroy a force which, in the present war, had so fully earned the gratitude and approval of the Empire at large.

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.): No one could have listened to the lucid and comprehensive statement of the Secretary of State for War with greater interest than I did, for two reasons. In the first place, to all Service Members and Army reformers it was interesting to find that almost every suggestion which we have been for years past offering to the War Office, and which have been rejected with scorn, have now been tenderly embraced by the Secretary of State. In the next place, I was much interested to notice the skilful manner in which he concocted what I may call the new military organisation "soup." It reminded me of our own Gaelic neighbours, who are so skilful in the culinary art, who when they are short of provisions make a soup which consists of fried onions, milk, hot water, and certain condiments, but meat is altogether absent. So it is with the scheme of the right hon. Gentleman. The basis of his scheme is wanting. He cannot bring his scheme to a successful conclusion without dealing with the question of recruiting. He told us he was about to ask the House for £88,000,000, of which £29,000,000 were practically the Army Estimates for the year, thus showing that upon the present war as much within £9,000,000 has been spent as upon the great Crimean War. But although this great Imperial Army, and this great charge is due to a great war undertaken for Imperial purposes, not one hint is foreshadowed that any call would be made either for men or money upon any other portion of the Empire, but the whole cost is to be borne by these islands in the home seas.

In speaking of the future of the Army he asked, Is it in strength and character capable of fulfilling its proper functions? To that he gave no reply, although over and over again we have pointed out that the defensive forces of the Empire were not adequate for the purpose. After a well-deserved eulogy of Lord Cardwell's scheme, he said that that scheme gave us now 100,000 Regulars in South Africa. But Lord Cardwell's scheme was never carried out. After it had been in operation for a short time there was a sort of semi-return to the long service system. What has this combination of the two schemes produced? We may have 150,000 in South Africa, but we have not three army corps. It was a mob of 150,000 men we sent to South Africa. Then the right hon. Gentleman said—

> "I have over and over again endeavoured to persuade the House that it is necessary for us to organise our forces on the principle of being able to send two army corps abroad."

He attempts to cast the blame on the House. Why, this House has never denied the right hon. Gentleman or his predecessor anything he asked for the Army. On the contrary, the Service

Members appealed to his predecessor over and over again to increase the artillery and the number of trained horses with the troops, in order that we might have two complete army corps to send to South Africa. Therefore no blame whatever is to be attached to the House of Commons.

The scheme goes on to provide for 155,000 Regulars in this country, and 115,000 Regulars to garrison India and our dependencies beyond the seas. I feel confident that neither the right hon. Gentleman nor any other man who has had experience of these matters believes for a moment he will be able to provide sufficient recruits during the next few years according to the scheme, and with the advantages laid down, seeing that some 15,000 men are at present serving in India beyond their time, and that recruiting is almost certain to fall. Towards the close of the Crimean War we paid as much as £20 per man for recruits, and we are now employing what I may call emergency men at five shillings a day to do duty which the trained cavalry soldier is obliged to do for a little over one-fifth of that amount. The right hon. Gentleman was good enough to admit that the artillery was insufficient. What greater condemnation of those who sit on the Treasury Bench could there be than that admission, seeing that year after year the deficiency has been pointed out? Furthermore, we are told that a much larger body of mounted troops is required. These are the very two points which the sixty or seventy military Members of this House brought to the notice of the right hon. Gentleman. If sixty or seventy Members interested in, say, the textile trade were to have brought before the Government the fact that certain reforms were necessary in that industry, would they have been treated with the scorn and contempt with which we have been treated? I think we are justified in making it clear that we did our duty, and we are in no way responsible for the terrible fiasco of this war.

The right hon. Gentleman referred to the great success of recruiting during the past year. He stated there was an increase of 46,000 men in the Militia. He used the word "men," but for the most part they were boys and weaklings. Of those 46,000 not one-fourth would be fit even to garrison India, let alone to go to fight in South Africa. He points to the 10,000 Yeomanry, but they were obtained under great pressure, and in consequence of the war. He spoke also of 56,000 additional Volunteers, and the grand total is made up to 140,000. But at what cost were those men procured? A great deal of this £88,000,000 was paid to procure them; and in order that he may have a sufficient supply in the future, what are the advantages held out? Instead of sleeping in a barrack room the recruit is to sleep in a cubicle; he is to have a little less sentry-go, but not one farthing more pay. Seeing that recruits are usually drawn from pretty much the same class, is it likely that these inducements will enable the right hon. Gentleman to obtain sufficient recruits for an extra army corps for foreign service in addition to those necessary for the 115,000 troops we are obliged to keep beyond the seas? The right hon. Gentleman said he would be pusillanimous if he did not make further proposals to the House in the event of recruiting not being a success. I was about to say that the right hon. Gentleman was inclined to be somewhat dishonest in placing this scheme before the House, because he must know from the statistics at his disposal that he cannot by any possibility obtain the men to make his scheme a success? The Militia alone gives 14,000 recruits, or one-third of the total number, to the Line. That being so, and if he is going to increase the Militia by 50,000, how can the right hon. Gentleman suppose that he is going to recruit enough for the Militia on the one hand, and for the Line on the other, seeing that he offers no special incentive for men to join? He says the Army is to be no longer a paper force. I am disposed to think that a very large proportion will be a paper force, for, in addition to the matters I have stated, discharges have been suspended for eighteen months, and there will be something like 30,000 men going out of the Army at the close of this year. Inducements will be held out to them to remain, but those inducements will not be sufficient. Referring to the army corps, the right hon. Gentleman said, "This is an organisation which cannot be called an organisation at all." That is precisely what we have been saying for many years past; and I am disposed to think that the organisation of the future, although it may be slightly better, will be practically of very much the same character. These army corps, with the exception, perhaps, of the one at Aldershot, will be patched-up army corps. The right hon. Gentleman spoke of the stores being massed for each army corps in the army corps district. It must have occurred to him that vast barracks and buildings will be necessary, and that there will be an immense initial cost for transport. He has therefore not been frank with us in placing these Estimates before the House, and leading people to believe that £2,000,000 will be the entire cost. If the scheme is carried out in its entirety, and the force is not to be a paper force, it will cost nearer £10,000,000 than £2,000,000.

Then I go to the employment of Militia and Volunteers, and here we have a case of the largest force being the least efficient. The fourth, fifth, and sixth army corps are to be mainly composed of Militia and Volunteers. When the glamour of the war is over, the majority of those who find it irksome to serve in the Militia or Volunteers, having to undergo a more severe training and to have a heavier strain placed upon them, will begin to ask why they should take this undue share in the defences of the country unless they are to obtain some corresponding advantage. If those corresponding advantages are given it will increase out of all proportion the demand which the right hon. Gentleman makes upon the taxpayers of the country. How are the Volunteers and Militia to be trained, and where are the officers to be found? A certain proportion will be drawn from the Regular Army, but the Regular Army is not only to be kept up to the present standard, but there are to be three army corps instead of two. Then the Volunteers are to be given field guns. If the Commander-in-Chief is going to rely upon field guns worked by Volunteers for the defence of the country in case of naval mishap, those who are to work the guns must receive a very much higher training than Volunteers at present receive.

To go to the question of the eight reserve regiments which it is proposed to form, consisting of men of fourteen or, in some cases, twelve years regular service, I understand that existing reserve regiments are to be drawn on in order to encourage some of the men to volunteer for the proposed new battalions. When the late Under Secretary of State proposed embodying these men and said he expected to get between 45,000 and 50,000 men, I was bold enough to say he would not obtain half that number of efficient men. A matter of fact, he obtained about 23,000, and I venture to think that three out of every four were men who, although fitted for one year's home service, were certainly not fitted to do even garrison service in the Mediterranean. If these garrison regiments are formed, probably not more than one-eighth, or one-fourth as the maximum, provided that the medical officer is not too strict, can be drawn from the reserve battalions. Therefore they must be drawn from the Regular Army, notwithstanding the fact that we are to increase the Army by one whole army corps. The army produced will be a stage army. The same men will be paraded over and over again. The incentive to the men to continue their service is 6d. per day, with 1s. 6d. as an old age pension at sixty-five years of age. No more ridiculous proposal was ever put forward. Very few men drawn from the working classes, especially old soldiers who have seen foreign service, reach the age of sixty-five, and they will not give you a "thank you" for such a pension offer. At present a man can serve for twenty-one one years, leaving the service at the average age of forty, and obtain at once a pension of 1s. 1d. per day, so that the new offer is no incentive at all.

As regards the substitution of five battalions to garrison certain stations in the tropics, I gladly admit that that is a very sensible proposal. I infer from the right hon. Gentleman's remarks, however, that the whole cost will fall on the Home Exchequer, but I do not know whether the necessary sum is included in the Estimates. When we come to the coaling stations we find a strange state of affairs. I always understood that the fixed principle of our policy was that the

Navy was our first line of defence, and that the greater part of the Army was required only for the defence of India and our other dependencies, the remainder to be, as it were, a feeder to the other, and that we relied to a great extent on our Volunteer forces for the defence of the Empire in case of mishap to the Navy. But here, in order to bolster up our Army, the system of robbing Peter to pay Paul is again adopted, and by this scheme we are going to render our Navy less effective. We are told the First Lord of the Admiralty has not yet seen his way to give a final decision. I should think not. He very naturally wishes to keep the first line of defence in the best possible condition, and if he is to take over the coaling stations he must furnish the equivalent of five battalions of Marines, as I do not suppose the right hon. Gentleman meant that the Admiralty should use bluejackets for this purpose. The Marines are, without exception, the finest force in the country, they are picked men, but they are also very highly paid men. I wish to know whether the cost of these men is be borne by the Army or by the Navy. If by the Army, the sum put down by the right hon. Gentleman must be increased, while if it is by the Navy then a greater sum must be demanded by the Navy. In either case it is the same to the unfortunate taxpayer.

With regard to distribution, I have only this one remark to make about those twelve battalions. They must be the same as the men we send out to India. Where are these seasoned old soldiers to come from, and what are the inducements held out to both non-commissioned officers and men to take a turn at this, after service in South Africa? I have dealt with the Militia problem, but I omitted to point out that no incentive is given to the Militiaman, although the right hon. Gentleman has undertaken to make this scheme perfect, and add 150,000 men in the Militia. To do this, he will be obliged to raise straight away 80,000 men. As a rule they are 30,000 men short, and the right hon. Gentleman requires 50,000 more, and I am at a loss to see where they are to be got from, inasmuch as they are to receive only an extra 3d. per day and £3 a year as an incentive to join. I think that will not be sufficient to induce the large number of men he requires to come forward for the Militia. The Militia Reserve are to receive 4d. a day and £6 a year. but that Reserve cannot be drawn upon like the late Militia Reserve was drawn upon, because it is only to be liable for home service. The Militiamen who have done ten years service and Linemen who have done fourteen years service with the Reserve are to form the new Militia Reserve, and they have to do fourteen days musketry. It is extremely unlikely that, when a man has done ten years in the Militia and has probably married and settled down, he would be willing to spend fourteen days every year at musketry.

Now I come to the Yeomanry. It is proposed to raise 35,000 Yeomanry, of whom some 10,000 are supposed to exist already. I hope it will not be thought that because I am an old cavalry officer I wish in any way to disparage the Yeomanry, but what I say is that we have always been given to understand—and all the great Continental nations agree in this—that the minimum time required to make an effective infantry soldier in the case of a highly cultured man is one year. When you get a man of a lower grade it takes two years, but it has always been held that it takes a much longer time to make an effective cavalry soldier. If the only cavalry we are to have to defend these shores are to be Yeomanry, I ask whether that is not a bogus mounted force so far as these three army corps are concerned? If one division of foreign cavalry were landed upon these shores and pitted against these 35,000 half-made cavalry soldiers, I believe that the foreign division would sweep them all away. Therefore, I say that it is deluding the country to lead people to believe that 35,000 Yeomanry will be anything like an effective mounted force for these three army corps. They are to serve eighteen days, fourteen of which will be obligatory, and the privates are to receive 5s. a day. That will be rather an expensive price to pay for these doubtful Yeomen, because no one believes that the right hon. Gentleman will get men of the real Yeoman class. You will no doubt get a number of the better class young men who now serve in the Volunteers. This new force will be highly popular, but highly inefficient. I notice that the Government are about to provide horses. They will obtain men who, for the most part, are unaccustomed to horses, and the fact that the horses with which these men are supplied will be horses of which they know nothing will render the difficulties of the officers who have to train them very great indeed.

Now I come to one of my complaints of the whole system. This war has conclusively shown that the mounted man, as compared with the dismounted man, is of the highest advantage, more especially in the face of modern weapons discharged at such a distance that the infantry man rarely sees the man to whom he is opposed. I think that one of the main defects in the scheme is the inadequate provision of mounted forces. It has been one of the main defects in the late war, as will be seen from the Report published by the Intelligence Department. Referring to South Africa, that Report says—

> "It is of all countries perhaps the most dangerous in the world for infantry to operate in without a screen of mounted troops in their front and on their flanks."

Although we advocated that in this House over and over again, our Army was sent out to South Africa without sufficient mounted men. At Graspan, Modder River, and Magersfontein our infantry were mown down, and a famous Scotch Brigade was sacrificed because they were led into traps which they would never have been led into had they possessed a sufficient force of cavalry scouts. It has been said by the Leader of the Opposition that we must not draw our deductions from the South African campaign. With that I entirely agree, because if we did it would be argued that the soldier of the future was a little man on a little horse with a long rifle and a big spade, and that troops of no other calibre were required. I do not suppose that we shall ever be drawn into a great Continental war in which we shall have to put such a vast army into the field, because in such a war in which we may be engaged the Navy will do the bulk of the work, and the only thing the Army would have to do would be to send a sufficient force abroad to act as a threat to our opponents by seizing some of their colonial possessions. Therefore we should only require a limited force, but it would have to be of the highest character, and if we happened to be operating in any portion of northern Europe, north of the Pyrenees and the Alps, it would be imperatively necessary to cover that territory not with Yeomanry, but with thoroughly trained and skilled cavalry. It was conclusively proved in the war of 1870 that the whole success of the German troops lay in the fact that they had a thoroughly effective cavalry, properly trained to cover the advance of the army.

As regards the Volunteer reforms, I notice that they are to receive 5s. a day, and that we are to have 225 battalions, necessitating an increase of 57,000 men, and that they are to do duty for thirteen days. But, after taking what I call the cream of the Volunteers for Yeomanry purposes—and the incentive offered will bring about that result—is it to be supposed that you will be able to fill up that gap of 35,000 men and at the same time get fresh men to the tune of 57,000? What about the employers of labour? It has, perhaps, not dawned upon the right hon. Gentleman that when he begins to put the pressure on these Volunteers, to give them the necessary training, the conditions under which they serve will be that each man when he finds the undertaking to be irksome will have nothing to do but to pay a small fine, put on his civilian clothes, and walk off. The scheme resembles a fairy tale. I shall be told, probably, that we have a large number of trained men of different categories in South Africa, and that we have these men to draw upon. Out of the sweepings left from South Africa you may have a number of men, but I think that the vast number of the men fighting out there will take the earliest opportunity of returning to civilian life.

I now come to a point upon which most Service Members feel very strongly—namely, the question of the artillery. The right hon. Gentleman the Secretary of State for War admits its weakness, but shelters himself behind the Commander-in-Chief. He is made to say with reference to our artillery—

> "It has accuracy, it has moderate weight behind the teams, all of which are important elements in artillery."

He goes on to say—

> "The open country and clear atmosphere in South Africa have shown that as regards range and power an improvement is necessary. That has to a certain extent been effected during the war by the provision of slow-burning cubes. As regards rapidity of fire some improvement is certainly necessary, and the matter is now under consideration."

Therefore this artillery of ours is defective in range, in power, and in rapidity of fire. If this is so, then I ask what on earth is it good for? I often think with what qualms in his heart the present Commander-in-Chief made this admission, when we reflect that the loss of his gallant son was due to the fact that the range of our artillery was defective. We have pointed out before the fact that our artillery was defective in range, and that a neighbouring nation had the very guns which we desired. But what was done? The Financial Secretary told us that he was about to spend some £200,000 in order to make what I will call some gimcrack arrangement in connection with the laying of the gun and the carriage in order that we might fire a little more rapidly. On the occasion of the battle of Colenso, what was the officer in charge of the guns to do under the circumstances? Why, he was bound to do what the whole course of his training had taught him. He had either to remain in the rear, subject to the fire of the enemy's guns, or else thrust his guns right under the rifle fire of the Boers. He did what every British officer was bound to do, and now the unfortunate Commander-in-Chief who lost his only son in this way actually tries to whitewash the Government.

Mr. BRODRICK: The remarks which the hon. Member is making are totally unjustified by the facts.

Captain NORTON: The right hon. Gentleman says the remarks I am making are totally unjustified by the facts. I am amazed. I say that our guns were defective in range, and had nothing like the range of the Boer guns.

An Hon. Member: Is the hon. Member speaking of guns of position or field guns?

Captain NORTON: I am speaking of field guns. The hon. Member must know that we had no guns of position in South Africa until we drew on the Navy. Reference is made here to our Horse Artillery guns, and the report says:—"Our Horse Artillery guns need improvement in several respects." Now I come to the question of the training of officers. What is to be done is that professional acquirements must rank first. If the intention is to do away with the social status of the British officer, seeing that it is the fact that it is the social status that causes him to desire to be an officer—if you sweep that away, I have strong doubts as to whether you will get a sufficient number of officers, and you certainly will not get the right class of men unless you are prepared to pay them adequately for their services. What is the incentive to be given to the British officer in order to induce him to devote himself to his profession, and how does it compare with other professions where many prizes are to be gained? Prizes are very few indeed in the British Army. The incentive offered is that the officer is to be allowed to buy his uniform at cost price from the Government establishments; but I have yet to learn that the expense connected with uniform, even in the most expensive cavalry regiments, is a very large item in an officer's expenditure. The right hon. Gentleman said that the Government would shrink from no difficulties and from no criticism. You are offering to the British officer the sum of 36s. 9d. per week. If you were to go into my constituency amongst the printers you would not get a single printer to work for 36s. 9d. per week, for he draws 40s. per week. And while you offer the British officer this immense sum, you put forward as an incentive that he will be able to buy his uniform at a cheaper rate, and you think that is sufficient to attract to the ranks of the officers of the Army a class of men who will be prepared to give themselves up to professional duties, and who, if they were to seek employment in other learned professions, would get at least ten times as much money.

The right hon. Gentleman finished up with the question of cost, and he put the entire cost of this bogus scheme at something like £2,000,000. As I have said before, my contention is that it will cost £10,000,000, because you have to include transport, reforms in the Army Medical and the Army Veterinary Departments, the building of barracks, and the establishment of training grounds, without which the troops will be absolutely useless. I suppose no hon. Gentleman here will contend for one moment that the recent South African War has been a success. When we carry our minds back to those terrible days in December, 1899, I ask whether there is a single man in this House or in the country who did not feel himself covered with shame when he read of those great disasters; and even at the present moment what must be our feelings when we reflect that we have now got the equivalent of six army corps in South Africa, and that all this effort was necessary in order to subdue two petty Republics whose total population was not equal to one large London parish? I say that military men in this country are covered with shame, because we have nothing to show in this war except that all our men and officers have behaved with unparalleled bravery; but so far as the management of the Army is concerned we have all condemned it. We were not able to land in South Africa two complete army corps in proper fighting form, and we have had to keep drafting in afterwards all sorts and conditions of troops who were a drag upon the transport, and who were not really fighting men. When we get these training grounds and a sufficient number of guns for the six army corps, and the garrison guns for the defence of our ports, then I say that the amount of money required will be more like £10,000,000 than £2,000,000, and that is what the country has to face. It is for the country to consider whether they are going to allow a similar state of things to occur if ever we are drawn into other entanglements.

The whole scheme resembles the well-known story of the Irish tourist in the train running on a single line. When the train stopped at a station the man called out, "Has the So-and-so express passed yet?" The reply was, "How should I know?" And then the guard said to the driver, "Drive on, Patsy; in God's name we will chance it."

Attention called to the fact that forty Members were not present. House counted, and forty Members being found present—

MR. GRIFFITH BOSCAWEN (Kent, Tunbridge) said he did not claim to treat this matter as an expert in military matters. He was not an old soldier, nor had he had the advantage of the experience of some hon. Members who had served in South Africa during the last year, but as a civilian who had had the honour of serving in a garrison as a Militiaman on a station abroad, he would like to say a few words upon the subject of the very important scheme which had been submitted to the House by the Secretary of State for War. The right hon. Member for Stirling Burghs objected to the scheme because it went too far, but the only objection which he could see was that it did not go far enough. The right hon. Gentleman was terribly afraid of adding an army corps to those troops who were to be ready at a moment's notice to go abroad. His objection was that there were not three or four army corps to be added instead of one. We had learned by the South African War the absolute necessity of this country having a large force ready to embark at a few moment's notice for service abroad. As the Empire has grown so enormously during the last twenty years, so the Army must grow *pari passu* with the Empire. The Empire had entirely outgrown the Army, and a scheme involving an increase £3,000,000 on the normal expenditure of for the purpose of organising an army corps to go abroad was, in his opinion, much too moderate a scheme. The right hon. Gentleman spoke very strongly upon this subject because compulsion had been hinted at; for his part, he would welcome any scheme of limited compulsion that would give recruits to the Army. He congratulated his right hon. friend the Secretary of State on the scheme which he had submitted, but he was doubtful whether he would get the recruits to fill the ranks of the Army. At the present moment, no doubt, the war fever was high and recruiting was brisk, but in the future, when the war fever had disappeared, where were the recruits to come from? There were only two alternatives—either to increase the pay of the soldier and the officer at a cost of something like £10,000,000 a year to the country, or to introduce a scheme of limited conscription. Some such change, in his opinion, was absolutely necessary, because we had reached the limit of recruiting, and had been compelled to enlist what were termed specials, who were men under the ordinary standard. In 1898 we enlisted no less than 34 per cent. of specials as against 18 per cent. in 1886. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for Stirling Burghs entered into a long tirade against conscription, which was rather useless, because his right hon. friend the Secretary of State for War had not proposed conscription. He was sorry he did not; the country now would tolerate it, and whether it liked it or not it would have to come to it in the end. The right hon. Gentleman spoke of having conscripts and sending them abroad. What we ought to have was an Army enlisted on the voluntary system, and some scheme of home defence by means of some large extension of the Militia, and that was a thing we should have to come to if we were to have the very moderate scheme which had been brought before the House. His right hon. friend had not proposed any compulsory system. He had said, let us give the voluntary system a chance, and as he had done that, we must be grateful for the reform he had initiated.

There were two things which the country was in great earnestness about at the present moment. One was a widespread opinion that our Army, excellent as were the men who composed it, splendid as were the officers who commanded it, was not run on business lines. The country wished to see it run in a more businesslike manner. As a nation of, perhaps, the most businesslike people in the world, there was something very unbusinesslike in our Army; and the unbusinesslike methods upon which it was run did a great deal of harm, and if the Army was to be put on a businesslike footing we should have to begin reforming the head and reform the War Office itself. Was there anything more unbusinesslike in the world than the pay sheets with which the officers had to make themselves conversant? He was reading a short time ago in *The Times* of a very curious arrangement of the Army Pay Department. A regiment had been engaged in the Orange Free State, and the officers had been sleeping out in the open on the veldt. Now, it was well known that any officer who lived under canvas was entitled to field service allowance, but when these officers applied to the authorities for their field service allowance they were told they were not entitled as they had not been sleeping under canvas. His right hon. friend had alluded to the fact that the training in the Army was not up to date. He quite agreed that there had been too much barrack drill, too much ceremonial. According to one Army Order, the first thing that a soldier had to learn was the sword exercise, and yet the same week that that order was issued a paragraph appeared in the papers to the effect that the General Commanding in South Africa had prohibited the sword ever being used at all. Our present system of training was not suitable for troops in the field. Under the scheme of training provided in the King's regulations, one month in the year only was devoted to field training and two periods of a fortnight devoted to musketry exercise.

MR. BRODRICK: That has all been altered now.

MR. GRIFFITH BOSCAWEN said he was glad to hear that statement from his right hon. friend and hoped that it was part of the scheme before the House. Musketry practice under the present system commenced at 200 yards, and at 200 yards it was carried out standing. He asked who would stand up 200 yards from an entrenched enemy. His view was that soldiers should be trained to do their duty in the field, and he suggested that a simple Manœuvres Act should be passed so that in every year a large tract of country might be taken and the soldiers go anywhere. He believed if that were done and adequate compensation given to the farmers of the country taken, they would be perfectly willing for the manœuvres to take place over their land.

and so far as the landlords and sporting tenants were concerned he was perfectly sure they would not stand in the way of allowing soldiers to go over the land in order that by so doing the Army might be perfected for the field. He understood that the Militia was to receive better treatment in the future than it had in the past. He hoped this was so, for the Militia had proved itself to be as useful a force as any in the Army, though it had been neglected in the past. The idea of a Militia Reserve was simply ridiculous, seeing that it only consisted of a number of men who, having taken the bounty, were willing to take the risk of being called out. He expressed his entire approval of the abolition of that Reserve and the creation of Royal garrison regiments. He cordially supported the scheme, which he thought would be to the benefit of the Army.

*SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT (Monmouthshire, W.): I think the importance of discussing this question cannot be exaggerated. The right hon. Gentleman the Secretary of State for War said the other night that he had made proposals such as never had been made and which he hoped never will be made again. The first part of that statement was unquestionably true. Whether the latter part rests in hope only I know not. At the rate at which our Estimates increase I fear that that hope may be disappointed. We are asked to-day to Vote Estimates for £88,000,000, a thing, I believe, that has never been asked in this country, or any other country, before. But this history of the growth of our Estimates is comparatively recent. I think that this Administration, in the course of five years, has increased the normal Estimates of the Army and Navy by £25,000,000; they stood at £35,000,000 in the year 1895, and to-day they are £60,000,000. That is a matter which I think deserves the attention of the House of Commons. The industry and labour spent in this country in cultivating the war spirit, partly by responsible Members and greatly by the press, give us little hope that we shall enter soon upon a different course. These Estimates are, of course, largely with reference to the war in South Africa. The right hon. Gentleman told us that five years ago he apologised, in his own person, for normal military Estimates that amounted to eighteen millions. To-day they are twenty-nine millions—a growth of eleven millions in the normal military Estimates of this country. Is there any reasonable probability that these Estimates have reached high-water mark? On the contrary, I consider that there is a prospect of indefinite increase. The Estimates are vague and uncertain. They depend to a great degree upon the price which you are going to pay for these voluntary recruits. In the future I suppose the Government will come forward, as they come forward to-day, and speak, with contempt almost, of these miserable Estimates as they do of those of three or four years ago.

That is the commencement of the speech of the Secretary for War. He concluded with a scheme which he described as involving a military force of 650,000 men. The conclusion was as formidable as the commencement of his speech. He says that the Estimates of 1896—that is, his first Estimates—of eighteen millions, were received with perturbation, and the Estimates of to-day are accepted with relief. I cannot say that that is exactly the sentiment with which these Estimates inspired me, and the appearance of the Secretary for War in the character of a relieving officer is certainly a curious part for him to have assumed. We have not yet come to the Budget under which these Estimates will have to be paid for, and I doubt very much whether the sentiments of the taxpayers of this country will be sentiments of relief when they see the consequences of the Estimates laid on the Table. I do not propose to go into details. I should be quite incompetent if I were to attempt to do so. But I do ask to examine what is far more important than any details, and that is the spirit and the policy on which these Estimates are founded. The Secretary of State invited us to look at the large and increasing figures of the War Estimates under our normal military equipment. Yes, Sir, I accept his invitation, and what is the policy that underlies it? A memorable saying of Mr. Disraeli's was that expenditure depends on policy; and the secret of the present expenditure is to be found in the policy by which it is inspired. It is that part of the speech of the right hon. Gentleman which is most important, and in my opinion, to use the phrase of the right hon. Gentleman by my side, the most momentous, because I look not so much at the figures—they are the figures of to-day—but I look at the policy which is declared in the speech of the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary of State for War, speaking for the Government, as I understand, for he would never have been so rash or so indiscreet as to indicate that policy if it was not the policy of the Government as a whole. What is that policy? Hitherto our armaments have been on a comparatively moderate scale, because I think it may be said on the whole, certainly in the nineteenth century, that the policy of English statesmen has been a policy of peace. Under the favourable auspices of peace we have achieved in this country an unexampled prosperity in the health and wealth of this people. At the commencement of the last century we had a people depressed by the consequences of a great war; this was followed by a long peace, by a great development of prosperity, and has been crowned by a contented people. That has been the policy of the nineteenth century, interrupted only by the fatuous episode of the Crimean War. What is going to be the policy of England in the twentieth century? I confess that to have the twentieth century inaugurated by such Estimates as these gives us little hope that this is the policy to be pursued in the future.

Let us see how far we can divine the policy of the Government from the statements of the Secretary of State. It is something very different from that which we have been accustomed to hear from responsible Governments, certainly during the last fifty years. I cannot say that I see in what is called "the new diplomacy" omens of peace. They are omens of a different description. They do not breathe the spirit of "peace on earth and good will towards men." They are inspired rather in the language of a poet of our time, "War with a thousand battles and shaking a hundred thrones"—thrones which, I may observe, are, from time to time, treated to occasional menace. You may pay the lip service of hypocrisy to the cause of peace at The Hague and then proceed to illustrate it by the object-lesson of arming 250,000 men in South Africa. It is those who have the most acquaintance with war who are the most willing to cultivate the arts of peace. That happened to the Tory Government which was in power after the great war in 1815; and it is a well-known fact, constantly quoted, that the lowest Army Estimates ever known in this country were the Army Estimates of the Administration of the Duke of Wellington. Why was that? It was because the consequences of war were alive in the minds of the people who had suffered from the consequences of war, who had seen the people distressed and starved, and trade ruined. The result was that you had a new epoch of economy and of peace. The British people had learned what the consequences of war were, and the people to-day have yet to learn the consequences which this war will in its outcome bring upon them. There was another thing learnt from that great war, and it was the lesson that England, above all things—and this has been what I may call the traditional policy of her statesmen—was to avoid as much as possible European complications, and alliances, holy or otherwise, were to be strictly abjured. These may be described as the leading principles of the peace policy of almost the whole of the 19th century. What is indicated—what is more than indicated—I say revealed—in the speech of the Secretary for War in bringing forward these Estimates? He felt that these Estimates were so enormous that it was necessary to put forward emphatically principles of the policy that should justify the enormity of the sum that was demanded. I am not, in spite of the speech of the right hon. Gentleman, without hope that the bitter experiences of this war while it was waged, and, I fear, still more the experiences which will be found in the peace which is to follow it, will inspire a soberer sentiment in the people of this country, and that the time will come when the melodies of the music-halls and the Mafeking mobs will not be regarded as the true exponents of English statesmanship. I hope that may be the case, and then at all events, the experience of this war will not have been suffered in vain.

Nothing could be more false than the pretence that great armaments are a security for peace. Were the great armaments of Germany and of France in 1870 a security for peace? Every man knows that they were the main things that provoked the war, because each of the parties relied on the victories their armaments would secure for them. Do not let us therefore be told that great armaments procure peace. There is nothing so easy as to manufacture inevitable wars. We have seen that process very recently; and in the eyes of the nations who make wars all wars appear to them to be just and necessary, and they only want the means of carrying them out to make them think that they are politic. Therefore do not let us pretend that these great armaments are any security for peace. As King John said:

> "How oft the sight of means to do ill deeds
> Makes ill deeds done."

That is as true of armaments as anything can be. I know how unpatriotic is the protest of a preference for peace. I know that war is considered the only true badge of patriotism to-day. [No.] The hon. Member who says "No" cannot read his daily newspaper. I do believe that we are standing to-day in a situation when the nation at large will recognise that after all there are some advantages in peace. [Ministerial cheers.] Yes, I mean a peace that is a real peace.

MR. BARTLEY (Islington, N.): Not a Majuba peace.

*SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT: The Majuba peace kept peace. [Several voices on the Ministerial side: "And made war"; "You made war."] It was not the people who made the peace of Majuba who made this war. But I will not enter into that controversy now. I will follow the lead of the Secretary for War, and pursue as closely as I can his argument and his defence of the Estimates. The right hon. Gentleman said that there was no time when the Army was weaker than between 1860 and 1870. I mentioned just now that the lowest Estimates known in this country were the Estimates of the Duke of Wellington. It is quite true that the Estimates were moderate between 1860 and 1870. That was the period immediately succeeding the Crimean War. The British Parliament, British statesmen, and the British nation were determined after the conclusion of the Crimean War that, peace being made, there should not be a war establishment. Was that the doctrine of the despised Manchester school? ["Hear, hear" from the Ministerial side.] I was waiting to hear an illustration of the knowledge of the history of that period possessed by some hon. Gentlemen opposite. I will tell you who the author of that policy was—the main and principal author. It was one whom I am sure you will respect. Mr. Disraeli in 1857 on the Budget of that time stated his intention of moving resolutions against the continuance of war taxes in time of peace. I will only quote one sentence, but it is worthy the consideration of the House. He said—

> "If these resolutions are carried we shall witness some beneficial changes in the financial system of the country. I think we shall give a great impetus to salutary economy, and shall in the most significant manner express our opinion that it is not at present advisable that England should become what is called a great military nation."

I will call attention presently to the doctrine of the Secretary of State upon that subject, but I think that is a very valuable sentence, and I recommend that it should be hung up in letters of gold in the habitations of the Primrose League. I think it might be useful if it was inscribed on the wreaths which about Budget time will be laid on the statue in Parliament square. That would be extremely valuable to the taxpayers of this country. The right hon. Gentleman, I was glad to hear, passed a deserved eulogium, as did Lord Wolseley, on Lord Cardwell. I had the honour of entering Parliament as a colleague of Lord Cardwell in the representation of Oxford, and I am glad to—

> "See nations slowly wise and meanly just
> To buried merit raise the tardy bust."

It has taken thirty years for people to recognise a great Army reform, which was at the same time a well-considered and an economical reform, because the creation of the Reserve by Lord Cardwell was a peace measure. It did not provide for keeping on foot a large armed force ready to be launched on the Continent at a moment's notice. At that time the Estimates were some £16,000,000 or £17,000,000. What is the policy of these Estimates of £29,000,000? The Secretary of State has told us extremely frankly, and I would like to revert to the sentence to which my right hon. friend referred. He said—

> "I hear it sometimes boasted that we are by nature a fighting race. I can only say that may be so, but it is only by accident that we are a military nation. Now we have to consider how we can turn that accident into a permanent opportunity."

That sentence I remember very well. It was Lord Palmerston's, but he did not use it as if he desired that this should be a military nation. He said that we are a fighting people, but not a military nation. That is not the view of the Secretary of State. He desires that we should be a military nation; and found his opportunity, he says, in the accident which has made us a military nation—that happy and glorious war we are now waging, and he hopes that fortunate accident will give us the happy opportunity of becoming a military nation. That is the revelation of the meaning of these Estimates and of their magnitude. They are intended to convert England, which has never yet been so throughout its history, in the ordinary sense of the word, into a great military nation. That is the first thing; and of that I venture to say that, so far as I can, I protest against this revolution in the policy of this country—against this attempt to convert England into a great military nation. That is the exact opposite of all that has hitherto been desired by the succession of British statesmen who have deserved the confidence of this country.

The Government look forward to the conclusion of the war as an opportunity for increasing our military forces and turning this into a military nation. As I have shown, the policy of Mr. Disraeli was, when a war was concluded, to reduce establishments, and not to increase them. Other nations, no doubt, in peace have been, and are, compelled to keep up vast armies, but why is that? It is because they have great vulnerable frontiers, and these frontiers must be constantly defended by their arms. But our frontier is the sea. [Cheers and Ministerial cries of "No."] Is the hon. Member who sits below the gangway not aware that England is an island?

COLONEL BROOKFIELD (Sussex, Rye): The British Empire is not an island.

COLONEL KENYON-SLANEY (Shropshire, Newport): India is not an island.

*SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT: I may put a further question—Are hon. Gentlemen not aware that a frontier is that which surrounds a country? When you put these two things together I do not think my proposition——

SIR JOHN COLOMB (Great Yarmouth): The right hon. Gentleman seems to be individualising me. I would ask him—Is he aware that the land frontiers of the Empire are greater than the diameter of the earth?

*SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT: I should say that the greater part of the Empire has the sea for a frontier. I might mention a small portion of the Empire which is called Australia. That, I think, has the sea for a frontier, and a great part of India is bounded by the sea. I will say, if he will allow me to say so, that, after all, the great defence of our frontier is the Fleet, and that the Fleet should be made sufficient for the necessary defence of our frontier at whatever cost has always been my doctrine; and it is because the greater part of the frontier of our Empire is the sea, and that its defence is the Fleet, that we are not called upon to maintain great military forces in the sense that Continental countries are called upon to maintain them. That is a reasonable proposition.

Then, Sir, I want to point out another principle which underlies the speech of the Secretary of State. He warns us that we are not to build up our military policy on the quicksands of the good will and forbearance of foreign powers. Yes, but it is a new feature in modern statesmanship that on every occasion the Government thinks it necessary to come forward and warn us that we are the best hated people in the world. If an individual had to make such a confession some people might think that he himself had something to do with his being hated, and it is by the authors of this new diplomacy that we are constantly told that we are the best hated people in the world. It certainly was not necessary in this country in former times to make that disagreeable announcement. On the contrary, it has been the habit in Speeches from the Throne to inform us that we were on the best possible terms with the other nations of the world. It has been left for this Government to make it the favourite theme of their policy that they cannot count upon the goodwill of other nations.

This confession that we have contracted the odium of mankind is brought forward as one of the topics—I might call it one of the principles—which is to justify these increased Estimates. And it is quite true. You cannot expect goodwill when you cultivate a blatant jingoism which is regarded as the true badge of patriotism, and which defies and insults your neighbours. [No, no.] That is not a policy, or one likely to secure the goodwill of other nations. The Secretary for War told us truly that "a wise foreign policy may keep us out of foreign enterprises and entanglements." I should have thought that such a policy would mitigate the universal hatred with which it is said we are regarded. But as we are asked to arm against this universal hatred I can only draw the conclusion that in the mind of the right hon. Gentleman the foreign policy of the Government has not been a wise one, because if it were it would have kept us out of these difficulties and dangers. Here, again, we see the natural outcome of the new diplomacy. It leads to enormously increased armaments. But I come to a still more serious matter. I hope I am dealing accurately with the statements of the right hon. Gentleman. I have taken great care to verify them, because they are of the deepest importance as regards the future of this country. The right hon. Gentleman, having told us that we were compelled to send the equivalent of six army corps to South Africa, passed at once to another very significant requirement. I beg to be excused if I again read a passage which my right hon. friend has already quoted, because I think we ought to have a most definite statement from the Government upon this subject, which, I venture to say, will have most serious consequences throughout the world. The right hon. Gentleman said—

> "Africa is not the only continent on which we have great commitments."

I suppose the right hon. Gentleman knows what "commitments" means. I do not. It is not an English word. I wanted to understand what that word "commitments" meant. I consulted many dictionaries and I could not find that "commitment" was a word ever used for anything but committing a man to prison. But at last I found a dictionary of a more modern character, and discovered in it the word "commitments." The authority quoted for it was the money article of the *Daily Telegraph* on 10th October, 1877, and it is said to mean "engagements." Now I know what it means. I understand it belongs to the jargon of the Stock Exchange. The right hon. Gentleman went on to say that we had commitments and interests on two other continents besides Africa, which we were bound to defend. Asia, no doubt, is one of the continents. I understand that, as we have there India and also China. But I do not know what these great commitments are on the other continent. I do not suppose you are going to send six army corps against the United States. It remains, therefore, that there are European commitments upon which we are to arm as a military nation. That is a very important matter, upon which we ought to hear a great deal more from the Government. I cannot conceive that this is a bugbear invented by the right hon. Gentleman only for the occasion. I imagine it must be the declaration of the Cabinet as the ground for proposing this gigantic Army plan and these enormous Army Estimates.

The right hon. Gentleman went on to say—

> "No man in this House will be so bold as to say that in any circumstances we can keep ourselves free from European entanglements."

So the "commitments" end in "European entanglements." Further—

> "Nor can we suppose, if we ever become unhappily entangled with a European country, that we can limit our enterprises solely to the extent of our own possessions."

Therefore it is to be "commitments" and "entanglements," and they are not to be in defence solely of our own possessions. Then what are they to be in defence of? Then he goes on to say—

"It stands to reason that if we have allies"

—mark the word "allies," because that is very important; it does not says whether it is a triple alliance or a dual alliance—

"if we have allies none of them will be prepared to turn out every man they can muster and allow us to rest at home. We ought"

—mark these words; they are the conclusion of the argument—

"to have ready at any moment three army corps to send abroad—practically 120,000 men."

Is that for the purpose of satisfying European allies? The "enterprises not limited to the extent of our own possessions."

MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL (Oldham): Treaties.

*SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT: That is just what I am asking. Have you made these treaties? You are to have 120,000 men ready for the purpose of alliances—let us know what these alliances are. I rejoice at the frankness of the Secretary for War, endorsed by the ardour of the Member for Oldham. But I venture to say that 120,000 men are about as inadequate for the performance of that task as the 10,000 men you sent to conquer the Boers. One hundred and twenty thousand? Why, you wanted 250,000 to fight the Boers, and if you are going to join in the great military combinations of Europe, I venture to say that co-operation is quite as dangerous as opposition. We have now Estimates for £88,000,000. But if you go in for a policy of this kind you may have to present Estimates twice or three times £88,000,000. That is why it is necessary at this stage of the debate, before we go into details, that we should know what is the policy upon which the Government are proceeding which leads to Estimates such as those which are laid on the Table of the House. Can there be anything more dangerous or more childish than the proposal to keep ready 120,000 men in order to launch them at any moment upon the Continent so as to satisfy your allies? We know very well that allies make it a condition of their alliance that you shall keep a certain number of men always ready for their purpose, and I think you will find that they will require you to keep a great many more than 120,000 men always ready. When your 120,000 men who are to be always ready to be launched on the Continent fail you, or want to be reinforced, what have you got? You send your three army corps, and you have got your three home army corps, but what do they consist of? That is exactly what we do not understand. It is to be a sort of *omnium gatherum* medley, a fortuitous concourse of voluntary atoms. What are these three army corps for your home defence to consist of when your first three army corps to satisfy your European commitments have proved insufficient? I venture to quote again an authority which I hope will have the respect of hon. Members opposite. It is a passage from the speech of Mr. Disraeli at the close of the Crimean War. He said—

"I am not in favour of any new and still mysterious military system"—

he must have foreseen this very plan—

"great, I am afraid, beyond proportion, and of which we have heard it said that it could at any time in ten days land an army on the Continent."

Do you agree at all with the opinion or the policy of Lord Beaconsfield? Here is his emphatic condemnation of the very plan which is now before the House.

When we are on this question of alliances, I would remind the House that we had this doctrine first in a speech at Leicester not long ago. Alliances were solemnly propounded: they were then proposed, but they were received with a chilling attitude and declined with thanks. But you may be more successful in the future; and the new diplomacy may come down and say, "Well, at last my proposals for alliances have been accepted, and here they are, and we have got 120,000 men ready to launch on the Continent at any moment." It is with these resources as a new-born military nation, and under the auspices of this diplomacy, that we are going to enter into competition with the great military States of Europe. That is a policy I understand: but it is a policy to which I, for one, and I hope everyone who sits on this side of the House, will offer a determined and constant resistance. I do not know, you have never told us, how many Regulars you expect to get. You have got these 120,000 men always ready to start on to the Continent, but how many more have you got in your home army corps? There is to be a small number of them, apparently, in the three home army corps, but besides that there is to be a great number of Volunteers, of Militia, of Imperial Yeomanry, and so forth; but we have never been told what the proportions of these are, so little has this plan been developed.

MR. BRODRICK: I gave all the figures.

*SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT: I beg pardon. I must have missed them. But I do not pretend to go into these different military figures. I am endeavouring to examine the policy, and not to argue upon the figures or military details. But, whatever the figures are, the right hon. Gentleman has very little faith in his voluntary recruits. He says—

> "We have added to our regular forces in the last three or four years 50,000 men. We have, I think,"

—this is most important—

> "under existing conditions almost reached the limit of our recruiting power."

He "thinks," and I think he thinks rightly. The only resources he has are a few battalions from the garrisons, and they are to come home, and then some elderly gentlemen are to volunteer to occupy all the unhealthy, disagreeable parts of the world. That is the only cure for the failure of the recruiting power of this country. I want to know when you say, after all your experience, that you are going to garrison South Africa with twelve battalions, what the exact figure is of Baden-Powell's police, and at what you estimate the cost of that force? If there are 10,000 men, as we have been told, at £250 apiece, as you have informed us, that amounts to £2,500,000 more; and if there are 15,000 men, as has been said, and as seems more likely in a territory of that extent, that would be £4,000,000 more which you have to add to your Estimates. That must appear upon some Estimate, or are they for the present to be paid by the gold miners in the Transvaal? I expect not. For their 5s. a day and all found they would like to have some better security than that—namely, the British Treasury.

The right hon. Gentleman says that 140,000 men have come forward voluntarily in the course of this war. That is a thing we must all be proud of, and of the spirit that has been shown. But that has been under, to use the right hon. Gentleman's own words, "the influence of the war fever." He does not feel confident that he will always be able to keep up the war fever. Indeed, I think he is rather of the opinion that the thermometer is already sinking and that before long it may perhaps be pronounced to be sub-normal, and when that time arrives he does not seem to have the same confidence in the number of his voluntary recruits. I applaud the frankness with which the right hon. Gentleman has developed his policy in support of this scheme. He will not, he says—and this is perhaps the most important point of all—"win cheap cheers by a proud declaration of adhesion to the voluntary system." I know the gallantry of the right hon. Gentleman; he will never "win cheap cheers by a proud declaration of adhesion to the voluntary system," but I do not know what the price of the cheers will be for conscription. At what figure will they be quoted when the war fever has evaporated? I should venture to predict that they will be very cheap cheers. He has declared his very slight adhesion to the voluntary system. He says his adhesion to the voluntary system is strictly limited.

MR. BRODRICK: Strictly limited by what?

*SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT: Strictly limited by his own opinion of what he is likely to do.

MR. BRODRICK: It depends upon our having sufficient defence at home.

*SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT: Strictly limited by the necessity of having 650,000 men, at a cost of twenty-nine millions sterling, or whatever the cost may be. He asks us to fix the minimum, I suppose, at 650,000 men, or he would not have asked for it, and he estimates the cost at twenty-nine millions sterling. How much it may turn out to cost when the war fever has collapsed, how much a day his Volunteers will require, he does not know and nobody knows. But he says that, if the war fever collapses and the recruiting and volunteering fall off, the Government "would be pusillanimous if they did not make further proposals. They will exhaust every means before they come forward with that proposal." I should be sorry to see the right hon. Gentleman pusillanimous. It does not belong to his character at all. I should say of him, *C'est magnifique, mais ce n'est pas la guerre.* But when he says he will exhaust every other means, I think before he comes to that he will have exhausted His Majesty's Government. He will find that the confidence of the country has collapsed also, as well as the war fever, and that their adhesion to his conscribing aspirations are also very strictly limited. I think that that will probably be the final result of the policy thus revealed.

Now, this jumble of a scheme that has been laid before us, concocted, as the right hon. Gentleman tells us in four months of office, with the assistance during only two months of the Commander-in-Chief, is not what the country has expected as a great scheme of Army reform. What they looked for was something very different from this precipitate project flung upon the Table of Parliament to fulfil the pledges of a precipitated election. That is not what we want, or what the nation requires. We require a deliberately conceived and carefully worked out scheme of Army reform. My right hon. friend says, How is it possible that Lord Roberts, who has been Commander-in-Chief for two months, has had time? The right hon. Gentleman, in apologising for the time he had been able to bestow upon the scheme, said, and it was quite true, that he was pressed with many other occupations, in this House and elsewhere. I say that this scheme bears upon its face all the marks of haste and of an undigested conception. It is a business which requires far more time than the right hon. Gentleman or the Commander-in-Chief has been able to bestow upon it. I do not find fault with either of them, but I do not know whether the Government themselves appreciate all the bearings of this scheme. I am sure if they do nobody else does. But in his peroration the right hon. Gentleman said that his extraordinary scheme is to be lasting monument to the memory of the thousands of gallant men who have fallen and suffered in this ill-omened war. Well, I confess that I foresee in South Africa consequences of this war which will be more deplorable even than the conflict itself. That you have acquired and maintained this great Empire by voluntary arms has been a proud tradition, a proof of your greatness and your strength, and if the outcome of the war shall be that it has inflicted upon the British nation the curse of conscription, then I say that the monument that this measure will erect will be a monument not of your glory, but of your decay.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): My right hon. friend near me has been the mark for a great many shafts hurled at him by two very important Gentlemen upon that bench—the present Leader of the Opposition and the late Leader of the Opposition. They have combined their forces, and have made an attack on the same lines against my right hon. friend and his scheme. Yet, on the whole, I think my right hon. friend may take comfort from the speech to which he has just listened. After all, the authority to whom the right hon. Gentleman opposite chiefly appealed was the late Lord Beaconsfield, and of the quotations from Lord Beaconsfield, which he gave us in considerable quantity, the date, I think, of the most recent was forty years ago, and, probably, of the less recent of them about fifty years ago. I think it is possible that in forty or fifty years some Radical gentleman upon that side of the House may look to my right hon. friend and quote his speech also upon Army reform, as the right hon. Gentleman has quoted the leader of the party to which he is opposed. The right hon. Gentleman is now apparently exactly where Lord Beaconsfield was before the German army reached its present perfection, before the war between Germany and Austria, before the war between Germany and France, before the war between Russia and Turkey, before the war between China and Japan. The state of mind of the right hon. Gentleman in regard to military matters is exactly where it was before all the great developments of military power. And that is what it is to belong to the party of progress!

I have not much to agree with in the speech of the right hon. Gentleman, but there is one part of his speech which I do heartily agree with. I certainly do think that the growth of the Estimates is a very serious matter. The increasing magnitude of the burden thrown upon us by our responsibilities is not a pleasant fact; but it is a fact that we have not attempted to disguise, a fact that flows directly from responsibilities cast upon us through no aggressive spirit of ours, through no corrupt or vulgar ambition on our part, but by the general movement of the world's history, and not the least by the growth of great military and naval Powers, which have magnified their forces by both land and sea to a degree never contemplated by our forefathers, and necessarily have imposed on us obligations which, however onerous, are not to be disregarded, and which would become very serious indeed if we repudiated them. The right hon. Gentlemen opposite occupied great parts of their respective speeches in telling us how large a space might be filled, how great an effect might be produced by the efforts of diplomacy as a substitute for military power. But, Sir, diplomacy never was a substitute for military power. What diplomacy can do, what diplomacy has done, and what I hope it constantly will do is to prevent the use of military power, to prevent the actual clash of opposing forces, the fatal collision of nations in arms. That diplomacy may do. But the idea that, by dexterous language, soft words, and smooth promises you can make up for a strong army and effective navy is a fantastic suggestion which history has shown to be ludicrous in the extreme, and which, if any nation adopted it as a permanent policy, would certainly land that nation in final ruin and calamity. Of course, it is possible by rash and unthinking diplomacy to land your country in complications and difficulties.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): Birmingham diplomacy.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Who doubts that? Who has ever doubted it? It is a lesson written large on the pages of history, and, indeed, it does not require history to tell us that must be so. But where is the nation that has found successful substitutes for brave soldiers and expert sailors in soft speeches and cunning diplomacy? The right hon. Gentleman objects to the "new diplomacy"; but, whatever be the merits of the new diplomacy, at all events it has never, any more than the old diplomacy, claimed to be a substitute for well-disciplined armies and well-equipped fleets. The real question before us is not the almost childish problem how we may substitute diplomacy for military preparations; but whether the military preparatiosn suggested by my right hon. friend are or are not sufficient for our needs; whether they are or are not calculated to maintain their object. The right hon. Gentleman objected to the word "commitments." He and the right hon. Gentleman near him, the Leader of the Opposition, appeared to think that in the phrase used by the Secretary for War lurked some obscure indication of new obligations, new and secret obligations, entered into by His Majesty's Government, which would carry in their train as the necessary and logical consequence a great increase in our military force. That is all fancy, all that is illusion; there is no foundation for it whatever. But we know we have great colonies and dependencies to defend, we know that some of these colonies and dependencies are in contiguity with the possessions of great Powers, and that possibly—I hope it may never be, but it may possibly be—the neighbouring Powers may be at war, or threaten war with us.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: What colony?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: It is simply a geographical question. Anybody who gets out a map can see where our colonies lie and their geographical relation to the colonies of other Powers. This is a responsibility that will be denied by no man. It will not be denied by the right hon. Gentleman.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT: The Secretary for War put forward the defence of our colonies as a separate reason. He also said we had commitments on the Continent as well.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I quite understand the right hon. Gentleman's interruption, and will leave that part of my subject, for I understand he does not dwell on our defensive responsibilities, our obviously defensive responsibilities; he bases his attack on my right hon. friend on the supposed obligation to deal with quarrels not immediately our own. There are treaties in existence, not made by us or by our immediate predecessors, but which are still binding; and who can say, in the changes and chances of mortality, in the moving kaleidoscope of European politics, how soon we may not be called upon to fulfil our treaty obligations? Not secret obligations, but obligations which are there on the face of all the text books, with which the right hon. Gentleman is as well acquainted as I am myself. It is conceivable, and it is, I presume, a contingency which my right hon. friend had in view, that if Britain were attacked, even if Britain had to fight a defensive war, she might have allies in that defensive war. The right hon. Gentleman, though he repudiates any special military knowledge, must be well aware that if we had allies in such a war they would properly expect our assistance in operations which, although in ultimate intention defensive, might be immediately offensive. Are we to render ourselves absolutely helpless in any case to give assistance by any military power of ours?

But I frankly admit that though this is an important consideration, it is not the main or governing consideration in the policy which my right hon. friend has put forward. I do not think that this contingency, which I have mentioned as possible, is in any sense probable, but though not probable, it is one that we should not forget. But let us just consider what it is that has brought down upon my right hon. friend the charge of this military ambition—the accusation that he is encouraging the military spirit; that he is attempting to create a huge, hitherto new, and unthought of force, a force which none of our predecessors ever contemplated. The right hon. Gentleman could not have followed my right hon. friend's figures. Anybody looking at those figures would see that whether it be or be not well contrived—and I think it is admirably contrived—the great effect of the scheme is not to increase the absolute number of our troops, but to make that number efficient for the purpose for which they exist. I understand that the right hon. Gentleman has no objection to the existing number of our Regular troops. That number is not increased by my right hon. friend, except for the garrison regiments. The right hon. Gentleman does not object to the present number of Reserves. That is not increased. I do not suppose he objects to the number of Miltia which, according to the law, we ought to have. That number is not increased. It is perfectly true that we ought to have 150,000, and that we have now only 100,000. I do not think the right hon. Gentleman will consider it a very aggressive scheme to raise the 100,000 to the 150,000. There are 250,000 Volunteers in the scheme. That is not an increase; and the only increase in the present numbers are the 10,000 garrison veterans, and the increased numbers of the Yeomanry—25,000 more Yeomanry. Is it credible that on such an increase as that, we should have such accusations hurled at our heads? What the right hon. Gentlemen opposite object to, is not the numbers of our troops, but their efficiency. We shall have, when this scheme passes, 680,000 men. We have now over 600,000, and it is that increase apparently which frightens the right hon. Gentlemen. They appear to lay it down as an axiom that, whatever else the British Army is to be, it is not to be an organised and efficient army.

The Leader of the Opposition in the speech he made early this afternoon, told us that it was nonsense to talk about army corps, that an army corps was a convenient ideal to be nominally worked up to, but that there was no such thing in the British Army as an organised army corps, in the sense that there is in the German, French, and Russian armies. I think that is very true. But the object of my right hon. friend is to produce army corps; that is the object he has in view. He does not think that we ought to remain in the hugger-mugger condition defended by the right hon. Gentlemen opposite. He does not think our army corps are to be mere miscellaneous and unorganised forces of men. The essence of this scheme is that the army corps with which we have got to deal, shall be army corps in reality as well as in name—army corps with their proper complement of generals, officers, and staff; army corps with their proper complement of cavalry; army corps with their proper complement of artillery; army corps organised as military units which can meet the invader, if invasion we have to fear, without being re-embodied by combination with other half army corps, strong regiments, casual military elements, before they form an organised and united force. That is the object of my right hon. friend. That is the object which right hon. Gentlemen opposite think we ought not to try for. I cannot agree with them. Where this country is chiefly at fault is not so much in the number of its troops as in their organisation, and it is not so much the number of troops that my right hon. friend proposes to add to, as the organisation which he proposes to perfect and complete.

What has the right hon. Gentleman got to say on the other side? I listened with amazement to the attack of the right hon. Gentleman on my right hon. friend. I think it was at the end of his speech that the Leader of the Opposition talked about the General Election and all the interesting lessons which the General Election taught, and all the morals which could be drawn from the speeches made at the General Election and all the unforgetable lessons which the General Election instils into us and our children and grandchildren. I think that one of the topics which next to ardent enthusiasm for the war filled the speeches of hon. Gentlemen opposite, and right hon. Gentlemen opposite, was equal ardour for Army reform. I remember being very severely taken to task by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for East Fife because I said in the course of the election campaign that the party opposite, so far as I remembered, had hardly contrived to produce the smallest beginning of Army reform for more than a generation; indeed, not since Lord Cardwell's great change in 1870. I remember the Member for East Fife, though I do not think he mentioned any great change either in the number, discipline, or equipment of the troops, did say that during their tenure of office the Duke of Cambridge had resigned, and another Commander-in-Chief had been appointed. That was the contribution which he pointed out. I venture to say that even before the war we had endeavoured, both by augmenting the numbers and in other ways, to improve the condition of the British Army. We were laughed at. Now what do we see? These gentlemen here, dressed high for the war whilst the election was going on, are now talking about the temperature of the war fever sinking to a sub-normal point.

These gentlemen who talked so glibly about Army reform, their capacity to carry it out, our incapacity to carry it out, have nothing to say about my right hon. friend's system, either in its outline or detail, except that it encourages the military spirit. This is surely playing with a great problem. Everybody admits that the task of the War Minister in this country, who has got to deal necessarily with a voluntary Army, who has got to find troops for innumerable foreign stations, many of them very unhealthy, is one of extraordinary difficulty and perplexity—a problem such as is not presented to any foreign statesman, whether French, German, Russian, or Italian. My right hon. friend has made a serious attempt to deal with the difficulties of that problem. I do not think that any critic of the Government will doubt that; but in attempting to do so under exceptional difficulties, how is he met? On one night he is attacked because he attempts to raise the efficiency of the British officer, because he refuses to promote those whose inefficiency has been demonstrated. He is attacked on the next night, forsooth, because he has not put off his Army reform for another year, because he has inflated the military spirit. I can hardly extract from the cloudy fumes of the oratory of the right hon. Gentlemen what is the essential accusation they bring against my right hon. friend; but if my right hon. friend's scheme is carried out, as I earnestly trust it will be, he will at all events have used to the utmost the forces we have at our disposal, he will have organised for the defence of our fortresses those materials useful for little else, but most useful for that purpose. He will have freed for operations in the field troops who are now used and in part wasted in fortress work. He will have organised these army corps, not for wanton aggression, but for home defence. He will have made the best of all the military elements at his disposal; and though he is attacked now, as military reformers have before been attacked, though he is made the target for the criticisms of right hon. Gentlemen who a few months ago, speaking in the country, were such ardent Army reformers, and a few months hence will probably be such ardent financial reformers, though he has incurred hostility, my firm belief is that the time will come when he will be pointed to, as some of the greatest of his predecessors have been, as one who has inaugurated a new era in the British Army, who has made that Army efficient for all possible purposes of home defence, and probably purposes of foreign war, and who by so doing has done more than even the most dexterous diplomacy can hope to do to secure that peace which is our first interest, and which never can be secured unless we have the respect of those Powers which are our friends, in some respects our rivals, and which might under certain circumstances be our enemies. If my right hon. friend has contributed in this way, as I think he has, to the cause of peace, if he has done something material to put our Army upon an organised and firm footing, then I think he will rank not only as a great Army reformer, but as one of the greatest and most effective friends of peace which this country has ever produced.

*Sir CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) said that if those Members of the House who had advocated Army reform were able to recognise in the scheme of the Secretary of State for War that which the Leader of the House had claimed for it the right hon. Gentleman would find in them warm defenders, instead of critics of that scheme. While he agreed that the country had been invited by many hon. Members of both sides of the House to consider Army reform as the main question which was to be discussed in the House in the present session, he confessed he could not, criticising, he hoped honestly, the scheme of the right hon. Gentleman, find in it the elements of hope for the great reform of the British Army in the future which they had been led to expect in the past. The right hon. Gentleman who had just resumed his seat had himself shown one of the greatest blots of principle on the scheme. He had claimed for the scheme that there was in it—at first he had said no increase, and then had modified his words and said only a small increase in our forces. That was one of the attacks which he made upon the scheme. The increase of expenditure had been enormous. As the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Monmouth had pointed out in his speech just previously, although the normal peace expenditure had grown rapidly from £18,000,000 to ,what was now called £29,000,000, but what in reality was £31,000,000, with loan money, to which there must be added the enormous expenditure of India, and of the Civil Service Estimates in relief of the Army—in spite of the gigantic expenditure which was continually increasing there had been no appreciable increase in the normal peace Army of the country. As one who considered that a mobile and effective force was of more value and more importance to the country for the efficiency of Imperial defence than mere numbers, he failed to see in the present schems, as he had failed to see in previous scheme, marked as they were by great increase of expenditure, that increase in the number and efficiency of the mobile Army of this country which they had been led to expect.. The right hon. Gentleman then quoted the numbers of our normal forces, and had spoken of the 600,000 men that we had already, and of the 650,000 that we might have under the scheme. We had 1,000,000 of one sort or another in the land forces of the Empire. The one charge which he had always made against the system, and which ought still to be made against the scheme, was that the Government had not made a small effective mobile Army out of the enormous number of men for which the country paid.

The First Lord of the Treasury had claimed for the Secretary of State for War that that right hon. Gentleman had created real army corps. He desired to show the House how little those army corps would stand the test. Where were the cavalry for the army corps? The right hon. Gentleman had not increased the cavalry by a single man. The right hon. Gentleman had a scheme for the gradual increase of the Yeomanry which he might or might not obtain, but they were not cavalry. The right hon. Gentleman did not increase the cavalry by a single man. He denied that there was regular cavalry for three army corps, let alone the six army corps which were claimed as a reality under the scheme. When the right hon. Gentleman spoke of these army corps, composed partly of Regulars, partly of Volunteers, and partly of Militia brought from all parts of the country, he was speaking of men who might take their discharge at any moment.

MR. BRODRICK: Not at all.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: Yes, the Volunteers could demand their discharge at a moment's notice, and to serve under any other conditions would do away with the volunteer service. That showed how ill thought out the scheme was which the Leader of the House and the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary of State for War had endeavoured to persuade the House was a reality. He recollected some years ago a scheme which provided eight army corps, which practically never existed, although for some years the regiments supposed to compose them figured in the Army list. After a time they became such a laughing stock that they were withdrawn from the Army list. He confessed so far as they had gone at present he had not gathered from the Secretary of State for War or the Leader of the House any facts which led him to suppose that the three army corps mentioned in the scheme would be any more a reality than the eight army corps which everybody had so laughed at. He agreed with the Leader of the House that many gentlemen on both sides had shown what the right hon. Gentlemen called an ardour for army reform, and he was very glad they had done so. The noble Lord the Member for Bedfordshire had told the House that in South Africa he had learnt one thing, which was that in all those years that he had listened to the debates on Army reform in that House it was the reformers who had been right and the Government who had been wrong. The reformers now saw the Minister for War was—in all but the chief point—a convert to their views. He believed it was a fact that the most ferocious of the inquisitors in the old days of the Spanish Inquisition were the Cardinals, secretly of the ancient Hebrew faith, yet they had retained their Jewish religion through all the time of the Inquisition. What those who had pressed for Army reform now learnt from the Secretary of State was that during the ten years he had been connected with the War Office, and had ridiculed the reformers, he had agreed in secret with most of the reforms put forward.

He was not at this moment speaking of the details of the scheme, but of the principle, and any detail to which he should allude he should allude to very briefly, and merely as an illustration, but he should have to allude to some details, and that would make it unnecessary for him to speak again upon the subject in Committee. The first point in the speech of the Secretary of State for War on which he would dwell was one upon which the right hon. Gentleman had been unjust alike not only to the reformers but to the House itself. With regard to the manœuvres the right hon. Gentleman had said the Government were going to do that which they ought to have done in the past, and have annual manœuvres and test the troops in all parts of the country. Why had they not done it in the past? The right hon. Gentleman said they had not done it before because the House of Commons prevented them, "All our proposals," he said, "with regard to manœuvres were cut down by the House of Commons." He would not deal with the contention in detail, he would simply quote the speech of the right hon. Gentleman on the Manœuvres Bill to disprove it, Deputation after deputation had waited upon him to press the Bill.

MR. BRODRICK: I know that the right hon. Gentleman almost alone supported me.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: On July 8th, 1897, the right hon. Gentleman said the Bill was brought forward at that late period of the session in consequence of the very strong encouragement which the Government had received from all quarters of the House. and he added that there had been indications of support "from almost every quarter" of the House. In fact, the opposition to the Bill was confined to a few Members of the House. It was an attack made upon the House of Commons. There were a few Members who were opposed to the Bill, but they were a very small minority of the House, and the pressure that was brought to bear upon the Government to bring forward and to pass the Bill was a pressure from all sides of the House. Another matter also—one, perhaps, of detail—also one to which he would briefly allude, one which was attracting a great deal of attention in the country, was that the right hon. Gentleman said the chief of the lessons of the war which the Government had learnt concerned the equipment of the Army with guns. He spoke of the necessity of adopting heavy guns for the Army; a matter which the reformers had pressed upon the House, but what was more important, he spoke of quick-firing guns, and he defended the gun supplied to the Army, which he said was accounted the "best field-gun in Europe" by experts "three or four years ago." No doubt that was said to the Government by one of their experts. But field guns of the old type were out of date, and the Government had been warned repeatedly by the House before the war had begun that we should have quick-firing guns, but what happened? In the ordinary sense our Army had not a single quick-firing gun in the country. The two systems of quick-firing guns which had now been adopted by the Government had been refused when the reformers brought the matter before the House on the 21st of April, and then again in June, 1899. The Government admitted that they had not a single quick-firing gun, but that they were experimenting in the matter. In that detail the right hon. Gentleman misled the House. The policy with regard to guns now adopted by the Government had been arrived at by the Government after the commencement of the war, from which they had learnt at last a lesson, and was a policy which had been pressed by the military reformers of the House several years ago. The principal staff officer of Sir Redvers Buller's force in Natal, who had previously been long in the Intelligence Department, had written of the war in South Africa that our guns in South Africa had "never been matched against quick-firing field guns of the latest type." The Secretary of State had adopted all the accessories of his scheme from the views put forward by military reformers in this House. He had even withdrawn the Guards from Gibraltar, and he had one so, so far as could be made out, on the ground that Gibraltar had contracted in size and that there was now less room there for the evolutions of the Guards than previously. He had also adopted the views of the hon. and gallant Gentleman opposite with regard to handing Sierra Leone and other stations over to the fleet, as he himself had said, against the opinion of the Admiralty, and he had thereby caused that unpleasant feeling between the two Departments. which had almost become a public scandal during the last few days.

But, continued Sir Charles Dilke, these are small matters compared with the much larger matters in which the right hon. Gentleman has very greatly changed his views, without, however, adopting a solid system which would give a good foundation to the future military institutions of the country. One of the lessons of the war which almost every officer who has returned home has impressed upon us is the need for mounted infantry as apart from our cavalry. The right hon. Gentleman has spoken of that need. Almost every officer who has spoken or written about the war has assumed that our present scheme for mounted infantry would be put an end to; that the best men would not be picked out of the infantry battalions, but that separate mounted infantry battalions would be established. I believe it was the universal opinion throughout the Army and the country that one of the reforms the Government would institute would be the creation of mounted infantry battalions. There is not a word about that in the scheme of the right hon. Gentleman, and when he says that it is necessary that we should be provided with a much larger body of mounted troops, I ask where are they to be found in the Estimates. There is nothing but the suggestion that the Yeomanry will be increased, but the Yeomanry are not a force available for foreign service or for India, or for any use outside these shores. They are a hypothetical force as to the future of which we know nothing at all.

There are many other points in the scheme on which the country has been profoundly disappointed. It had been almost universally accepted after the experience we have had of Colonial mounted infantry in this war that there would be some sketch, however faint, of the future constitution of an Imperial mounted infantry throughout the Empire. I know it is said that these suggestions should come from the Colonies, but they have come. You would not be forcing any such scheme on the Colonies, but you would only be accepting an invitation already made. Suggestions have been already made by Canada and Australia, and in New Zealand a definite scheme has been proposed by the Government, and the country will be disappointed that no reference has been made to that scheme by the Secretary of War.

MR. BRODRICK: I made a distinct reference to it.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: The point on which reformers in this House have always insisted, and the necessity for which has been terribly shown in the early stages of this war, is that we should not wait for war to make these preparations, but that an arrangement with the Colonies should be made in time of profound peace so that it might be in working order when war broke out, and not have to be made much too late to render all the assistance it would have rendered in the earlier stages of a war.

I will not dwell on the adoption by the right hon. Gentleman of the views of reformers in this House with reference to transport and the Army Medical Department. I remember debate after debate in which hon. Members called for the reorganisation of the Army Medical Department, and I think it is unjust that the responsibility should now be thrown on the House of Commons for having rejected Government proposals which were never made. I will not even dwell on the great change in the training of the Army for war referred to by the right hon. Gentleman, and which implies a severe censure on the War Office of the past. The words of the Secretary of State for War were grave words. They went as far as the words which have been used in public by a distinguished officer who has the confidence of the present Commander-in-Chief, and who served as Adjutant-General to the Commander-in-Chief in India. He used these very serious words—

> "There is no disguising the fact that the troops sent out from England to South Africa were not properly instructed in the duties required from soldiers in war."

What a terrible condemnation of the War Office of the past that the Secretary of State should be obliged to admit that our soldiers—although only a small Army, which were we told would be more efficient than the conscript armies af foreign countries, both because of its voluntary system and its manageableness—are less efficient and less trained than the armies of other countries. I understood the Secretary of State to admit that. At all events the words he used with regard to changes in the future were so strong that they appeared to me to carry that condemnation. The Secretary of State has theoretically adopted the views of reformers in this House, and, taking almost the words of the Service Members' memorandum circulated last year, he tells us that in the past we have had scratch corps and improvised staffs, but that in future we are to have corps trained in peace by the officers who are to command them in war, and that they are to be provided with peace staffs. He has applied these words not only to the three army corps for foreign service, but also to the three mixed army corps, which I agree with the hon. Member who has spoken are nebulous corps, because their constitution is of such a mixed description that it cannot be satisfactory. It is my belief that it will lead, in the event of war, to their being broken up again and not employed in the manner now contemplated. I believe that in the event of war you would pick out from these corps the regular troops, and that therefore they would have no real existence.

The right hon. Gentleman has explained that besides these army corps there will be left at home more than half a million of men prepared for defence. I confess I am one of those who hold that the command of the seas is the defence of this country. I agree with my right hon. friend the Member for West Monmouthshire (Sir W. Harcourt) that this House will cheerfully vote whatever money is necessary to maintain that command, which is our real defence. I believe that the British Army exists mainly as a really efficient army for the reinforcement of the Indian garrison, and, if necessary, as the rudiment of that army which, in the event of a great war, would be necessary to secure peace by means of a counter-stroke at the possessions of our enemy. I attach more importance to the smaller portion of the Army which is organised for the purpose of offence than to this enormous horde of men with rifles for home defence. Those men are mainly composed of Militia and Volunteers. I listened in vain in the proposal of the right hon. Gentleman for that reform of the Militia which I did expect. There was a plan for the creation of a Militia Reserves, but that is not the kind of reform we expected. There is a great deficiency of officers which applies not only to the Militia but still more to the Volunteers. There is nothing in the scheme to remedy that deficiency, and I cannot see how they are to be provided. And yet what can be the value of these picked and special detachments of Volunteers, to be put into an army corps, unless you have efficient and sufficient officers to command them. In reply to an interruption of mine with reference to the training of these officers, the right hon. Gentleman said that the matter was under consideration. I confess I cannot see that we have in this scheme that great measure of army reform which was promised at the last election. The right hon. Gentleman has, it is true, adopted the language and many of the measures proposed to him by reformers in this House. But when he went to the root of the subject I find a great falling off. He paid lip service to the Cardwell system and spoke in high terms of it, but when he came to the substance of his scheme there was again a large increase in the long service portion of the Army, which is entirely opposed to the Cardwell system, whereas there was no corresponding increase in the short service portion of the Army. That is a side of the subject which I fear I cannot develop to-night.

The most important part of the whole question is, how are you going to make up the number of troops which are supposed to exist after the present war, depleted as the Army will be? The Leader of the Opposition said we had no statistical calculations before us. This is a point on which, at all events, calculations should have been given us. We know that there are three years drafts required for India at the end of this war, instead of one ordinary draft. There is also an enormous deficiency under many other heads which will have to be made up. How are you going to make it up? When the right hon. Gentleman talks of the Cardwell system he must remember that it has been greatly altered by both sides of the House in consequence of the difficulties always existing in the case of India, and which are increased now, and will be much greater at the conclusion of the war. The original idea was a short service system, but it was soon found that that would not suit India. Then we proposed five years, then six years, and ultimately seven, and eight years for men discharged in India. In 1883 a Government of which I was a member, and in which the Leader of the Opposition was Secretary to the Admiralty, was obliged to give the men the option of staying up to twelve years, and giving them advantages for doing so. That was a complete departure from the Cardwell system. The principle of the Cardwell system is sound, namely, that the Army could be extended for war, but it was not applicable to India. The right hon. Gentleman dealt with that matter the other day, but not, I think, very plainly. He pays lip service to the Cardwell system, but he is getting all his old soldiers to stay behind, which is an absolute reversal of that system. He is extendng the long service portion of the Army in this way, although he is not making any corresponding attempt to deal with the short service portion. Then again, there was an almost universal belief throughout the country that some attempt would be made to increase the pay of the private soldier. I believe every candidate at the general election on both sides was in favour of increasing the private soldier's pay, and I believe also the taxpayers are in favour of it. The subject is, however, merely referred to by the right hon. Gentleman, who tells us that it would be useless to increase the pay of the private soldier unless we made it something like double the present pay. Have you tried? I see nothing myself pointing at all in that direction. Have you tried even that elasticity of conditions of service which many think so desirable? What did your Inspector General of Recruiting tell you two years ago? He said you had never given the three years system a fair chance. The right hon. Gentleman knows perfectly well the views of the present Commander-in-Chief on this subject, and the views of reformers in this House, and yet he says that the only question is, "Are we to have a separate army for India or not?" No one in this House has ever for a generation proposed a separate army for India. But what we have proposed is elasticity in the conditions of service, which would make recruiting far more easy than it is at present. The right hon. Gentleman has not told us what is the opinion of Lord Roberts on the subject of the conditions of army service.

It being midnight, the debate stood adjourned.

Debate to be resumed to-morrow.

SUPPLY [1ST MARCH].

Resolutions reported:—

CIVIL SERVICE SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES, 1900-1901.

CLASS I.

1. "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £35,200, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1901, in respect of sundry Public Buildings in Great Britain, not provided for on other Votes."

2. "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £13,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1901, for Rates and Contributions in lieu of Rates, etc., in respect of Government Property."

3. "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £7,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1901, for payments under the Tramways and Public Companies (Ireland) Act, 1883, and the Light Railways (Ireland) Act, 1889."

CLASS II.

4. "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £6,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1901, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Department of His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs."

5. "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £7,200 be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1901, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Department of His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies."

6. "That a sum, not exceeding £1,015, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1901, for the

Salaries and Expenses of the Office of the Lord Privy Seal."

Resolutions read a second time.

First Resolution :—

MR. TULLY (Leitrim, S.) said they had now been dealing with Supplementary Estimates for several nights, and no further information had been given them. The Estimates had been prepared in a very loose way, for even in regard to fixed charges like rent and insurance an extra £5,500 was required. Although the Imperial Institute and the London University was not in the nature of a museum or a picture gallery they were now proposing to spend nearly £10,000 upon it. There was, however, an item of £2,000 for the Intelligence Department of the War Office to which he did not object, for he thought they needed to spend more money on that Department. He did not know why all this extra expenditure on regard to electric lighting should have been incurred, because there never was a time when greater economy should have been practised in all Government departments. He did not think sufficient reasons had been given to justify the voting of this large sum of £35,000, and he begged to move a reduction of the Vote by £100.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out '£35,200,' and insert '£35,100' instead thereof."—(*Mr. Tully.*)

Question proposed, "That £35,200 stand part of the Resolution."

MR. O'MARA (Kilkenny, S.) said that when this Vote was before the Committee Member after Member on this side of the House rose and complained of the way in which the Estimates were brought before the House. Before that money was voted he should like to have full details given to the House. He was of opinion that most of this expenditure ought to have been foreseen. There was £3,000 set down in connection with the Patent Office, and although £20,000 was spent there last year they were now asked for £3,000 more. The First Commissioner of Works had told them that by carrying out this work they would save £750 a year, but he could not understand how he made this out, and he should like the matter cleared up. He found that there was a sum of £3,125 for the adaptation of Hertford House for the Wallace Collection, but that was on the top of a previous expenditure of £160,000. He represented a poor constituency, and objected to that expenditure for a London show. Then there was the item "Furniture," £1,325, which was an increase of 50 per cent. over the previous year. He could not understand how the expenditure for furniture should have gone up to such an enormous extent. It was an item that ought to be stationary. Then there was an increase of £3,400 on household articles, which surely warranted some explanation, as did also the increase of £950 on the Die and Medal Department of the Royal Mint. He hoped his friends would look carefully into these increases of expenditure, and that they would have some support from both sides of the House in putting pressure on the Government to reduce expenditure. [Laughter.] Hon. Gentlemen laughed, but the public would not laugh when they saw the Budget, and when hon. Gentlemen went down to their constituencies after the Budget their constituents would not laugh. Every penny ought to be turned over two or three times before being spent, instead of these thousands of pounds being thrown away.

MR. FLYNN (Cork, N.) said the House owed a debt of gratitude to the hon. Gentleman who had just sat down, because he had given information to hon. Members which they did not have when these Estimates were last considered. When the Supplementary Estimates were being discussed in Committee last, a high financial authority on the opposite side of the House pointed out that the system of Supplementary Estimates was going from bad to worse, entirely owing to the fact that the Estimates were not properly criticised, and that the Treasury had got into a reckless method of keeping their accounts. For example, there was an increase of £5,500 for rents, insurance, and tithe-rent charges. Now, if there was one item which was supposed to be stationary it was rent. If the rents had gone up, why was that so? They ought to have some information on that point. He had some knowledge of insurance matters, and he was not aware that premium rates had gone up. Again, in all departments tithe-rent charges had gone down; and why should they have gone up in this case? He complained that they got no details from the Government under any of these heads. An hon. and frugal Gentleman from Scotland criticised in a few and pointed remarks some of the subjects under A, relating to new works, alterations, additions, and purchases, and asked for explanations, but none had been forthcoming. In regard to the Wallace Collection, why was it that £3,125 had been spent in addition to the previous £160,000 for converting one of the finest mansions in London and fitting it up for the storage of that collection? He believed it was impossible to over-estimate the value of that collection, but it was quite unreasonable to ask the poor taxpayers in Dublin or Cork to pay for what they would never have a chance of seeing. He thought hon. Members above the gangway had not applied their minds to the Supplementary Estimates during the present session or in previous sessions. Anyone acquainted with structural alterations would not believe that £163,000 could have been spent in Hertford House in making ready that mansion for the priceless collection it now contained. If any hon. Member got a plan of the mansion as it formerly existed, it would be impossible for him to conceive how that enormous sum of money had been spent. Then they were asked for £10,000 for the Imperial Institute for the purposes of the London University, and yet the House was too niggardly to grant even £1,000 to Queen's Colleges in Ireland, to provide proper instruction for clinical students. No adequate explanation had been given of that Supplementary Estimate. The Imperial Institute—that precious monument of Imperial imbecility—had never, not even in its amusements, been able to compete with a twopenny-halfpenny circus, and could not compete with private enterprise such as was displayed at Earl's Court in any one particular. Yet they were now asked to vote £10,000 more, *sub silentio*, for that Institute. They would not pass it in silence, but would comment on such expenditure, especially in such times. With reference to the £2,000 spent on Winchester House, he would not object if it were for the purpose of improving the Intelligence branch of the War Office or the Foreign Office, but after what had occurred during the last year and a half, not one penny should be spent on the Intelligence Department. He thought hon. Members were justified in reiterating their protest against the large and progressive increases asked for in the Supplementary Estimates without any adequate explanation regarding them being given.

THE FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS (Mr. AKERS DOUGLAS, Kent, St. Augustine's): I shall reply, as shortly as I can, to the various criticisms which have been addressed to me by hon. Members. The hon. Member for South Kilkenny asked me to explain why details in the Estimates had been given in full so far as Sub-head A was concerned, but not as regards other sub-heads, and he stated that in the Supplementary Estimates for last year details were given in full. I stated the other night that it has always been the practice to give details only of new services in the Supplementary Estimates, but I do not intend to pass over the criticism of the hon. Member, and will endeavour to give him the fullest explanation I can. First of all the hon. Member asked me with regard to the Census buildings. In connection with that the Supplementary Estimate now asked for could not have been foreseen when the original Estimate was framed. That Estimate was prepared in October, 1899, and of course we knew then that the Census would be taken this year, but the Census Bill had not even been passed. After the original Estimate was framed we were asked by the Registrar General for further accommodation, first of all for an increased staff, which was necessary for the collection of the further details required, and for the greater expedition which was generally desired, and also because it had been decided to establish a female staff, for whom separate accommodation was necessary. Then a complaint was made by the Medical Officer of the Local Government Board with regard to the sanitation and ventilation of these buildings, and Professor Corfield, one of the best authorities on sanitation and ventilation, visited the buildings, and a further sum of money was required to carry out the improvements he suggested. It would therefore have been impossible for the Department to have foreseen this additional expenditure as long ago as October, 1899.

LORD HUGH CECIL (Greenwich): Divide, divide!

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.): I wish to ask whether the noble Lord the son of the Prime Minister is entitled to interrupt the right hon. Gentleman? Because you are the Prime Minister's son you have no right to interrupt.

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member has no right to address personally any member of the House.

MR. T. M. HEALY: He has no right to interrupt us either. Send for your police and turn him out. [Cries of "Police! Police! Police!"]

*MR. SPEAKER: If the hon. Gentleman does not keep more order I shall have to call on him to leave the House.

MR. T. M. HEALY: Very well, Sir, go on. You will not call on him, though, to go out. We will stand no nonsense from him.

MR. AKERS DOUGLAS: The next hon. Gentleman asked me to explain the amount required for the Patent Office extension. I must appeal to my hon. friends to allow me to explain. It is quite impossible for me to address the House while they are speaking. The hon. Member said that this was not a pressing expenditure. It is not an excess over the original Estimate at all, being within the total sum asked for. But if we had not pressed forward this payment we should not have been able so soon to provide accommodation for the library at the Patent Office, and would have had to continue a payment of £700 a year for a temporary building. The lease of the building expires in 1904. Fortunately there is a break in it, and if we now avail ourselves of that, we shall be enabled to save £700 during the next three years. I think that is a reason why urgency can be pleaded. Another hon. Member asked me a question with reference to some of the items on page 8. One of them refers to the rentals of new buildings which have been taken within the current year for the further accommodation required by the War Office in consequence of the expeditions which have been sent out to South Africa, the recruiting of the Yeomanry, and various other duties entailing an increased staff. A large proportion of the charge for light and fuel is in respect of these new offices. The hon. Member has asked me about the charges in connection with the Wallace collection. The original charge was £125,000, and that included the purchase of the freehold, the purchase of the lease, and the cost for the very large buildings which were added at the rear. This sum of £3,125 was for furniture to equip the buildings for opening to the public, and after all it is a very small sum, I think, to pay for furnishing the buildings in return for the munificent bequest which we have received.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford) said the right hon. Gentleman had met them in a conciliatory spirit, and had shown his desire to meet every objection that had been raised. If the criticisms from the Irish benches were always met in the same spirit it would be more satisfactory. After the explanation which had been given he would recommend his hon. friend not to further discuss the Vote, but allow it to pass.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Resolution agreed to.

Second Resolution:—

MR. T. M. HEALY called attention to the fact that merely upon Government property alone in Ireland, in consequence of the passing of the Local Government Act, the sum of £3,000 had come as an additional charge on the ratepayers. It must be remembered that the charge was fixed by the Government themselves, and that they had no power to assess the amount which ought to be borne by the Government rateably, with regard to the other buildings existing in the country, and they had constantly to meet the outcry against the small amount the Government had to pay. To what was this additional charge of £3,000 due ? It was due to the profligate system of advancing salaries by the Local Government Board. Nobody in the country was a bit better off except the officials. There was not a soul throughout the thirty-two counties, from the Nationalist county in the south to the Orange county in the north, better off. They had advanced the salaries from crossing sweeper up to the secretary of the county council. When Ireland was not better off and better cared for, why was it that the peasant in his sheeling should have to pay this additional charge ? If the right hon. Gentleman could show that a single road was better kept he should be slow to offer criticism in respect of this sum, but they knew that not a single shilling of this amount went to any local credit, except into the pockets of the worthless class who had been maintained by the grand jury system in the country. How could they defend it ? Was it not money entirely thrown away because of action which the supreme court of appeal had condemned as illegal ? The High Court had declared that every one of the sealed orders issued had been illegal. Why should the Government bring this additional charge on the ratepayers of the country, having regard to the fact that the Estimate was prepared when it was assumed there was some legality in the charges, and that they should not be blotted out ? Some Members might be of opinion that it was the desire of the Irish party to obstruct the business of the House. There was no such intention, and he resented the attacks which had been made upon them by some of the scions of nobility opposite. Their only desire was to criticise the Estimates in so far as they had a bearing on the ordinary daily life of the people of Ireland.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.): I scarcely think that the hon. and learned Member can expect me to follow him into a detailed examination of the Irish Local Government Act. I scarcely think that I should be in order if I attempted to do so. We have agreed to a payment in lieu of votes equivalent to the amount which would be charged if the property were not in the occupation of the Crown. We have accepted that principle, and it is certainly a principle which we have no reason to be very fond of, because it means a charge on the Imperial Exchequer. The money so taken from the Imperial Exchequer goes in relief of the local rates, and it is a little discouraging that a Vote of this character should be open to the very bitter criticism which the hon. and learned Member opposite has levelled against it. This additional sum is needed because the rates have risen.

MR. T. M. HEALY: Why have they risen ?

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: It must be perfectly obvious to the House that over the local rates we have no control. We have promised to pay our fair proportion of what those rates are. It is the new local authority which has raised the rates.

MR. T. M. HEALY: No.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The new local authority has raised the rates. [No.] It is not a matter which we can check, and if it were true that the whole of the increases were due, as the hon. and learned Member suggests, to salaries in connection with the Local Government Board, it would still be not a matter over which the Treasury had any control. But I do not think there is any foundation for that assumption. In any case the whole of this is a charge which falls on the Treasury automatically in consequence of the rise in rates, and unless we are to break our agreement—which is one beneficial to the ratepayers—I am bound to ask the House to pass this Vote.

MR. MURNAGHAN (Tyrone, Mid) complained that the Irish contribution was out of all proportion to the amount it should be. The contribution to the English rates was about one hundred times as much as that to the Irish rates.

Moreover, the increase in rates in Ireland was 8 per cent., while in England it was no more than one per cent. That in itself showed that the rates in Ireland were growing beyond all reason, and seeing that in the rich country of England £1 was felt no more than 1s. in Ireland, the gentlemen of England should show more consideration towards the Irish people in this matter.

Mr. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.) agreed that this matter could and ought to be discussed on the Local Government Board Vote. The Local Government Board in Ireland had treated the local authorities with the utmost contempt, and the House ought certainly to have some assurance that such conduct would be stopped.

Mr. T. M. HEALY said the hon. Member for East Waterford had suggested, and he agreed, that this question should be remitted to a future occasion.

Resolution agreed to.

Third Resolution :—

Mr. T. M. HEALY understood the Government were carrying on in Donegal and elsewhere very considerable works, but the mode in which those works had been conducted was not satisfactory. It was also understood that the Government had already suggested that the gentleman chiefly responsible should retire from the service. With that decision he had not the slightest fault to find, but would the Secretary to the Treasury state how much the Government expected to pay in respect of extras, and who was to replace the gentleman responsible for the blunderings which had caused the extra demands? Was it to be a another Scotsman?

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN said he was unable to state the name of the successor to the gentleman referred to, as he had not yet been appointed. The Vote under consideration, however, had nothing to do with the gentleman the hon. and learned Member had in mind, but was for repayments to the county council and local bodies in respect of a portion of the guarantees. He would look into the points raised, but for the moment he had not the figures by him.

Resolution agreed to.

Further Consideration of remaining Resolutions deferred till To-morrow.

HOUSE OF COMMONS ACCOMMODATION.

Select Committee appointed to consider whether any, and what, arrangements can be made to improve the accommodation provided for the general use of Members of this House.

Ordered, That the Committee have power to send for persons, papers, and records.

Ordered, That Five be the quorum.—(*Sir William Walrond.*)

PRESENCE OF THE SOVEREIGN IN PARLIAMENT.

Resolved, That it is expedient that a Select Committee be appointed to join with a Committee of the Lords to consider the accommodation available in the House of Lords when the Sovereign is personally present in Parliament, and the advisability of substituting Westminster Hall on such an occasion for the House of Lords.

Ordered, That a Message be sent to the Lords to acquaint them therewith.—(*Sir William Walrond.*)

Adjourned at a quarter after One of the clock.

[APPENDICES.

APPENDIX I.

Memorandum of the Secretary of State relating to the Army Estimates for 1901-1902.

The total of the Army Estimates for 1901–02 amounts to £87,915,000, while the number of men to be voted is 450,000.

The following table shows the comparison with the figures for the current year :—

	1900–01.	1901–02.
Vote A - -	430,000	450,000
	£	£
Votes 1–16 - -	88,999,400 (including Supplementary Estimates).	87,915,000

As regards Vote A (men), 220,000 may be regarded as forming the permanent establishment of the Army, the balance being temporary additions due to the war in South Africa and operations in China.

The £87,915,000 is accounted for as follows :—

	£
(*a.*) Permanent additions voted in 1900–01 and earlier years, including automatic increases -	25,451,000
(*b.*) Permanent additions to be voted 1901–02 -	1,912,000
(*c.*) Temporary increases - - - - - -	2,322,000
(*d.*) War services - - - - - -	58,230,000

(*a.*) Permanent additions voted in 1900–01 and automatic increases.

	£
As shown at page 6 of Army Estimates, 1900–01, the total for normal services and permanent additions amounted to - - - - - - - -	23,702,700
The estimates for 1901–02 have also to allow for—	
(1.) Complete provision for new forces raised in 1900–01 - - - - - - -	655,000
(2.) Contribution payable to India towards the cost of Aden, as well as the transport of troops to and from India - - - - - -	230,000
(3.) Rise in prices of stores and fuel - - -	350,000
(4.) Growth of Volunteer force . - - -	180,000
(5.) Hutting for troops at home, and annuities for repayment of loans for works . - -	280,000
(6.) Miscellaneous - - - - - - - -	53,300
Total - -	25,451,000

(*b.*) Permanent additions to be voted, 1901-02 - - £1,912,000.

These include—

(*a.*) The formation of "garrison" battalions for service on the Mediterranean and other non-tropical stations abroad.

(*b.*) Measures affecting the Militia, Yeomanry and Volunteers.

(*c.*) Provision of Staff for Army-Corps, and reorganisation of Army Medical services.

(*d.*) Extension of system of registration of horses and transport required on mobilisation.

(*e.*) New system of clothing throughout the Army.

The above measures, and others affecting Army reorganisation, will be fully dealt with on the introduction of the Army estimates, so I refrain from explaining them in detail in the present memorandum.

(*c.*) Temporary increases - - - - - - £2,322,000

This represents the further instalment for the rearmament of our fortresses and for stores, to which allusion was made in the memorandum accompanying the Army Estimates for 1900-01.

(*d.*) War services - - - - - - - £58,230,000.

The provision under this head is based on the assumption that for the first 4 months of the new financial year the field force in South Africa will be maintained at full strength, and that a gradual diminution will subsequently take place.

Provision is made for the transport home of the troops, and the gratuities payable on demobilization, as well as the special war gratuity, which, though voted in the present financial year, will not, owing to the prolongation of the war, be paid to any large extent until 1901-02.

The explanations of the increases on the different Votes are as follows:—

This vote shows a net increase, £3,207,500, of which £2,239,000 is due to war, and £968,500 to "normal" services.

The latter head covers—

(*a*) The pay, &c., of the new "garrison" battalions already referred to.

(*b.*) Two additional Indian native battalions for service at Singapore and Hong Kong,

(*c.*) The further provision required for various increases voted in 1900-01.

(*d.*) The contribution to Indian revenues referred to in paragraph (*a.*) (2) on the preceding page, as explained in the papers recently laid before Parliament.

The increase on this vote amounts to £183,600, of which £58,700 is for war, and £124,900 for permanent additions. The bulk of the latter increase is for the "Reorganisation of the Army Medical Services," to which reference has been made.

Net increase £374,000. The provision for war services show a decrease of £40,000, while the increase for permanent services amounts to £414,000. This is mainly accounted for—

(*a.*) By a new system of consolidated bounties, estimated cost, £150,000.

(*b.*) By the formation of a new Militia Reserve, for which £250,000 is provided.

(*c.*) By the issue to Militia non-commissioned officers and men of the same rates of pay and extra-duty pay as are given to similar ranks in the Regulars, at a cost of £12,000.

There is a net increase of £231,000 on this vote, but the increase as compared with the normal is £300,000, which is to provide for a considerable addition to the number of the force, and an extended period of training, accompanied by higher rates of allowances.

This vote shows an apparent decrease of £500,000, but there is in reality an increase of £330,000, as compared with the ordinary provision for this force.

The large growth of the Volunteer Force necessitates the provision for increased capitation and camp allowances, while a considerable sum, £150,000, has also been taken for the extended training of a certain number of battalions of Infantry and batteries of Artillery.

This vote shows a decrease of £3,823,000, which arises entirely on war services. Money is taken in this vote for the transport of the troops to be brought away from South Africa. The only service requiring special mention is the additional provision under Subhead D of £100,000, for registration of horses and transport to be available for military purposes in time of emergency.

There is a net increase on this vote of £582,000, which is mainly due to the permanent additions to the Army already referred to. Provision is also made for the grant of the messing allowance to Militiamen during their annual training.

The increase on the normal vote is £180,000, which is accounted for by the initial cost of the new system of clothing about to be adopted throughout the Army (including the Militia).

The increase for normal services amounts to £2,600,000, of this sum £2,322,000 is due to the further instalment required for accelerating the rearmament of fortresses at home and abroad, while the balance is required to meet a general rise in the price of stores.

As compared with the normal vote for 1900–01 this vote, apart from war services, shows an increase of £283,300, being due to the provision of hutting for troops at home, and to increased annuities for the repayment of loans for works.

There is nothing that calls for special mention in the case of these two votes, as, apart from war services, there is no change from the amounts taken in the current year's estimates.

Apart from war services this vote shows an increase of £5,000, which arises on Subhead A, and is mainly due to the appointment of an additional Officer as Inspector-General of Recruiting, as well as a Deputy-Assistant Adjutant-General for recruiting, to an increase in the pay of the Commander-in-Chief, and to an addition to the number of Officers attached temporarily for various staff duties.

The net increase of £518,500 on these votes is due to charges in connection with the War. The only service calling for special notice is the provision, under Subhead K of Vote 15, of a sum of £56,000 to cover the grant of pensions from the 1st April next to the widows and children of non-commissioned officers and men who have died as the result of active operations. The scheme is now being formulated under the direction of the Treasury.

ST. JOHN BRODRICK.

28th February, 1901.

APPENDIX II

PUBLIC BILLS

DEALT WITH IN VOLUME XC.

Those marked thus * are Government Bills. The figures in parentheses in the last column relate to the page in this volume. "[H.L.]" following the title indicates that the Bill originated in the Lords.

(A.) HOUSE OF LORDS.

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
*Berwickshire County Town [H.L.]	*Lord Balfour*	(Read 1^a 21 Feb., preceding Volume, page 649); Read 2^a 12 Mar. (1278)
*County Courts (Ireland) [H.L.]	*Lord Ashbourne*	Read 1^a 11 Mar. (1141)
Cremation [H.L.]	*Lord Monkswell*	Read 2^a 7 Mar. (768); Committee, Report, 11 Mar. (1141); Read 3^a 12 Mar. (1279)
Habitual Drunkards [H.L.]	*Bishop of Winchester*	Read 2^a 14 Mar. (1510)
Licensing Sessions [H.L.]	*Bishop of Winchester*	Read 2^a 14 Mar. (1499)
Light Load Line [H.L.]	*Lord Muskerry*	Second Reading, 4 Mar. (298) [Put off for six months]
Oath against Roman Catholic Doctrines Repeal [H.L.]	*Lord Braye*	Read 1^a 11 Mar. (1141)
*Prisons (Scotland) [H.L.]	*Lord Balfour*	Read 1^a 5 Mar. (511)
Public Libraries [H.L.]	*Lord Windsor*	Read 1^a 7 Mar. (768)
Shops (Early Closing) [H.L.]	*Lord Avebury*	Read 1^a 11 Mar. (1141)

(B.) HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Title of Bill.	Brought in by.	Progress.
Borough Funds Acts (1872) Amendment (London)	*Captain Jessel*	Read 1^o 1 Mar. (209)
*Burial Grounds (Scotland)	*The Lord Advocate*	Read 1^o 7 Mar. (844)
Burial Places (Exemption from Rates) (Scotland)	*Mr. Shaw-Stewart*	Read 1^o 8 Mar. (1051)

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
Cheap Trains	*Captain Norton*	Read 1° 1 Mar. (209)
Compensation for Damage to Crops, etc.	*Mr. Hudson*	Read 2° 6 Mar. (737); Com. 7 Mar. (992)
Congested Districts (Ireland)	*Mr. Flynn*	Second Reading 13 Mar. (1448) [put off for Six Months].
Education (Local Authorities)	*Mr. Henry Hobhouse*	Read 1° 13 Mar. (1495)
Employers' Liability Extension	*Mr. Sinclair*	Read 1° 5 Mar. (590)
Factory and Workshop Act (1878) Amendment	*Mr. Harwood*	Read 1° 5 Mar. (590)
Hospitals (Exemption from Rates)	*Mr. L. Walton*	Read 1° 1 Mar. (210)
Industrial Schools Acts Amendment	*Dr. Macnamara*	Read 1° 12 Mar. (1355)
Licensing Acts Amendment (Scotland)	*Mr. Colville*	Read 1° 1 Mar. (210)
Lights on Vehicles	*Sir R. Mowbray*	Read 1° 5 Mar. (590)
Liquor Traffic Local Veto	*Mr. Caine*	Read 1° 1 Mar. (209)
Liquor Traffic Local Veto (Scotland)	*Mr. Craig*	Read 1° 1 Mar. (209)
Mines (Eight Hours)	*Mr. Yoxall*	Com., 28 Feb. (167)
Parliamentary Elections (Mariners' Votes)	*Mr. Macdona*	Read 1° 5 Mar. (591)
Police Superannuation (Scotland)	*Mr. John Wilson (Falkirk)*	Read 2° 6 Mar. (704)
Rivers Pollution Prevention	*Sir F. Powell*	Read 1° 5 Mar. (590)
Sovereign's Oath on Accession	*Mr. W. Redmond*	Read 1° 12 Mar. (1355)
Sunday Closing (Wales) Act (1881) Amendment	*Mr. Herbert Roberts*	Read 1° 5 Mar. (591)
Trade Marks	*Mr. Fletcher*	Read 1° 1 Mar. (210)
*Trout Fishing Annual Close Time (Scotland)	*The Lord Advocate*	Read 1° 7 Mar. (843)
Ulster Custom	*Mr. William Moore*	Second Reading 13 Mar. (1495) (Deferred)
University of Wales (Graduates)	*Mr. Brynmor Jones*	Read 1° 6 Mar. (763)
Water Companies (Liability for Storage of Water)	*Mr. Sinclair*	Read 1° 5 Mar. (589)

APPENDIX III.

HOUSE OF COMMONS. SESSION 1901.

LIST OF RULES, ORDERS, &c., which have been presented during the Session, and are required by Statute to lie for an appointed number of Days upon the Table of the House.

[*Continuation of List given in preceding Volume.*]

Title of Paper.	Date from which the Period runs.	Period to lie upon the Table.
Prisons (Scotland),—Copy of Rule made by the Secretary for Scotland, under The Prisons (Scotland) Act, 1877, appointing the Police Cells at Haddington to be a legal Prison for the detention of untried prisoners for a period not exceeding fourteen days before or during trial, and of convicted prisoners for a period not exceeding seven days from the date of of conviction [40 and 41 Vic., c. 53, s. 58]	28 February	40 days
Prisons (Scotland) Dietaries,—Copy of Rules made by the Secretary for Scotland, under The Prisons (Scotland) Act, 1877, establishing new rates of Dietaries for the several classes of prisoners [40 and 41 Vic., c. 53, s. 58]	28 February	40 Days
Local Registration of Title (Ireland) Act, 1891, and Small Dwellings Acquisition Act, 1899 (Rules),—Copy of Rules made by the Judge nominated as an additional Land Judge for the purposes of The Local Registration of Tithe (Ireland) Act, 1891, with the approval of the Lord Chancellor [54 and 55 Vic., c. 66, s. 94 (4)]	28 February	40 days
Factory and Workshop Acts (Particulars of Piece Work Wages) (Pen Making),—Copy of Order of the Secretary of State, dated 12th July, 1900, applying with modifications the provisions of section 40 of The Factory and Workshop Act, 1895, to Factories and Workshops in which is carried on the making of Pens [41 Vic., c. 16, s. 65 (3)]	7 March	40 days
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  - *Os.* Lord Sandhurst, Earl of Hardwicke, *Mar. 14*, 1512.
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